

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

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SOCCER

WEEKLY

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Which of these two veterans will go furthest in European competition?

Scottish Premier League Fixtures

WARATAH CUP DEBATE

Editorial

The current disagreement that Soccer Australia has with Marconi Fairfield and the Board of Directors of Club Marconi, is causing anger, disappointment and sheer disbelief in the community at large.

For the record it stems from Soccer Australia's determination to move into merchandising of Ericsson Cup gear. That is hats, shirts, jackets, bags, mugs, pens virtually anything on which Club insignia can be displayed.

As regular readers would know Manchester United derive over \$A50 million a year from merchandising sales. Soccer Australia obviously see great potential, waiting to be exploited, for Ericsson Cup clubs' merchandise.

Soccer Australia seem to believe that the club badge worn on the shirt of Marconi players seriously impedes this move to marketing. Club Marconi's Directors believe to the contrary.

A considerable amount of correspondence has flowed back and forth between the two organisations. A number of meetings have been held between representatives of the two. The Board of the multi million dollar entertainment business have discussed the matter extensively. Still there is no resolution.

It is the classic stalemate.

However the ultimate sanction appears to be in the hands of Soccer Australia. They can withdraw the invitation for Marconi Fairfield Soccer Club to compete in the Ericsson Cup. It is an option that surely they will not dare to use.

Such a move would open Soccer Australia, its Directors and organisation to ridicule and maybe even a breakaway competition.

The whole affair would be laughable, if it wasn't so serious. John Cleese would turn it into high force, if only in one his training films.

The badge is unacceptable. What is so objectionable?

After all Guglielmo Marconi was of Italian birth but, migrated to England where most of his pioneering work in radio transmitter was carried out.

He is rightly credited with the invention of the radio aerial, or antenna, which enables signals to be transmitted around the world and received in a fixed location.

The badge also contains a boomerang which represents Australia which is obviously, the place where Club Marconi is situated.

The sticking point appears to be the boomerang's three colours which are red, green and white. They were taken from the Italian flag because the club was founded by migrants from that Mediterranean country to Australia.

The parallel must be drawn to one of the great clubs on the world scene — AC Milan of Italy. This Club was started by British people in Milan who wanted something for their cricket club members to do in winter. Football (soccer) was chosen.

They needed a badge and because most of the people involved were from England the Cross of St George was to be featured. It is still there today. It does not appear to inhibit sales of AC Milan merchandise.

All life-long supporters, followers, fans of the World Game appeal to Soccer Australia and Marconi Fairfield to come to their senses, find a compromise and end this mindless bickering.

Tradition must stand for something and there is no future without a past.

If one party has to retreat, so be it, but do it with honour and dignity. Our great game is once more suffering because of people's pride. The game is greater than any one person.

And anyway why isn't Marconi Fairfield marketing its own merchandise just like Manchester United?

BY BOB BROOKS

The draw for the NSW Waratah Cup sixth round, took place, in public a week ago yesterday.

This Cup competition open to Clubs from Northern NSW, which is a separate 'State' for Soccer reasons, the ACT and the rest of NSW, is organised on a knock out basis.

The overall winner receives \$50,000, there is no prize for coming second.

Ground entrance monies are collected by the NSW Soccer Federation, not the individual clubs. Games are often organised as double headers, under lights, in mid week.

An ambition of the Federation was to make their competition as prestigious as the FA Cup, a noble aim.

The lesser lights have an opportunity to claim a bigger club's scalp. Division 4 Sydney University claiming Division 1 Fairfield Bulls might be an example.

In Northern NSW Highfields Wolves from the local league defeated Adamstown Rosebud who play in the NSW Super League and are in fact in this season's Grand Final.

As the competition progresses the previously mentioned bigger Clubs enter the fray. First it's the Super League outfits and then at Round Six, NSL giants step in.

So a giant killer such as Hills United from Division 1 can hope to draw a game with Marconi. This situation arose at the 'Official' Sixth Round Draw.

Division 1 leaders Sydney Cosmos, an ambitious club, were first out of the hat, their opponent was Wollongong City. Additionally Hills United came out in their pairing with Sutherland Shire Sharks from Super League.

The coach, manager, committee, players, juniors and supporters of Sydney Cosmos were thrilled by the news and began psyching themselves up and planning a splash of promotion for the big occasion.

They assumed that their Club would entertain the Wolves at their home ground, Wentworth Park. There were tentative discussions about hiring St George Stadium.

All this enthusiasm, excitement and anticipation was crushed last Wednesday evening when a phone

call from NSW Federation Headquarters informed them that the game would be at Brandon Park, Wollongong on Sunday September 1 as one part of a double header.

The other game is Hills United versus Sutherland Sharks.

Wollongong, the big Club, have been given home ground advantage. Only a phenomenal effort will lift Sydney Cosmos to victory.

Few supporters of Sydney

Sydney Cosmos, said on Wednesday evening having heard the news, "This is unfair. We are in top form and I believe on our territory we would have had a good chance of knocking them off."

The former Socceroo showed his personal and his Club's disappointment with NSW Soccer Federation's arrangement.

As Watson explained, there would be little argument from Sydney Cosmos if the game was

First Division was supposed to play its final round of matches. The ones for Hills United, Bathurst 75 and Sydney Cosmos will have to be re-arranged.

If one of these teams manages to progress further in the Cup then they face a conflict if they are involved in a Finals series for their Division.

Incidentally Bathurst 75 travel to Melita Stadium to challenge

Parramatta Eagles in the Waratah Cup.

It is to be hoped that in future years at the draw for the round where the NSL clubs enter, that it is pointed out before the dice are thrown, that the draw is purely to establish who plays who and that the venues will be advised later.

That way expectations won't be frustrated.



Joe Watson: Unhappy with way cup games scheduled.

Cosmos or Hills United would know how to find Brandon Park and therefore it is doubtful if many will travel. So support for these two ambitious Clubs will be sparse.

An opportunity has been lost to enhance the prestige of the Waratah Cup, to market its knock out concept.

As Joe Watson, coach of

to be played on a neutral ground. However by arranging the fixture at Brandon Park this has unfairly handed home ground advantage to the big fish, Wollongong City.

The Eastern Suburbs of Sydney are abuzz with the idea of Sydney Cosmos and a major opportunity has been lost in putting the game on Brandon Park.

On September 1, the NSW SF

WORLD RECORD AT OLYMPICS

Soccer's governing body is again at loggerheads with Olympic leaders over letting the world's top soccer stars play in the most popular event of the Games.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch made a new attempt to get age limits lifted when he watched the United States win the women's final in Athens, Georgia.

Samaranch presented the medals with International Football Federation (FIFA) president Joao Havelange and was said to have been "staggered" at the world record 76,000 crowd for a women's match in which the United States beat China 2-1.

The Sanford Stadium was also packed with 86,117 for the men's final when Nigeria beat Argentina 3-2 to become the first African winners of the soccer title. FIFA said 1,364,142 people went to the Olympic matches, an average of 40,122.

FIFA deliberately set the 23 age limit to stop the Olympic tournament becoming a rival to the IOC when it allowed each country to include three over-23 players.

But football, the world's most popular sport, is the last one holding out against Samaranch's attempts to have the best athletes from each event at the Olympic Games.

Samaranch said he regretted FIFA's attempts to "protect" its world championship by not letting the best players appear in the Olympics.

A FIFA spokesman said soccer's governing body had always said it had no intention of allowing the Olympic competition to become a rival to the World Cup.

1996 WARATAH CUP ROUND 6 DRAW

Weston Creek	v	Marconi Fairfield	Greenway Oval, Tuggeranong, ACT
Highfield Wolves	v	Newcastle Breakers	Breakers Stadium, Newcastle
Sydney Cosmos	v	Wollongong City	Brandon Park, Wollongong
Hills United	v	Sutherland Sharks	Brandon Park
Parramatta Eagles	v	Bathurst '75	Melita Stadium, Chester Hill
Warringah Dolphins	v	Canterbury M'ville	Melita Stadium, Chester Hill
Sydney United	v	Canberra Cosmos	Croatian Centre, St Johns Park
UTS Olympic	v	Rockdale City Suns	St George Stadium, Rockdale

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Editorial. Waratah Cup
- 3,4 Australian Features
- 6 Letters to the Editor
- 7 Europe Stories
- 8 WA
- 9 Queensland
- 10 Northern NSW & Illawarra
- 11 New South Wales
- 12-13 Scottish Premier Fixtures
- 14 Schools & World Results
- 15 World Stories
- 16, 17 & 18 Victoria
- 19 Women
- 20 South America & Asia
- 21, 22 & 23 British
- Front Page: Ally McCoist & Paul McStay facing off

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SPORTSCENE

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

PAUL TRIMBOLI, South Melbourne's dynamic and intelligent striker, is on the verge of joining the mass exodus of Aussie players linking up with overseas clubs.

"Trimmers", for years one of Australia's very best ball-playing strikers, late last week suddenly took off for England.

The blond marksman with the good looks and always a great favourite with the crowd, departed from Melbourne for urgent trials at Maine Road with Alan Ball's Manchester City.

In the space of under two weeks, Trimboli now becomes the second Australian striker that Manchester City have expressed interest in.

Adelaide City's leading goal-ace, Damian Mori was the first.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@
DAMIAN MORI, last season's Ericsson League top goalscorer for Adelaide City, could soon join Manchester City if the two clubs can agree to terms.

It is understood that the 'Black and Whites' are demanding \$1 million dollars for Mori, upfront, and in one lump sum payment.

But Man City's management are only willing to compensate Adelaide City via the 'drip-system'.

That is, the English club is prepared to pay Adelaide \$400,000 upfront, followed by specific instalments linked according to the number of games Mori plays in the first team.

All last week, heaps of contradictory, (if not confusing press statements), came out of England, regarding Man City's manager Alan Ball and his views on the Mori affair.

'Mori is wanted by Ball,' one day, the next, 'Mori is not wanted by Ball'.

The facts however are:



Paul Trimboli: On the verge of moving overseas, joining the player drain.

Mori played one half game for Man City in China whilst the 'Light Blues' toured that country recently to play pre-season matches.

Even though it was only half a session, Mori did enough in those 45 minutes to impress Ball.

Late last week, Adelaide City's new coach, former Australian World Cup striker Johnny Nyskohous, spoke to Ball by phone and the English manager left no doubt in Nyskohous' mind that he wants to sign the Australian striker if the two clubs can agree on suitable terms.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@
FRANK FARINA, the Brisbane Strikers' new coach, is almost certain to NOT enter the transfer market for any new material.

Farina from Brisbane last night stated to 'Good Oil': "I

won't be buying anything that is on the League's transfer lists.

"First we don't have the money other clubs are asking for their players on offer, and secondly I want to promote



Damian Mori: Could soon sign for Manchester City.

some of our local young material we have here.

"I certainly don't want to buy anyone unless he is substantially better than what I've got already.

"I have two Scots trialling with us at the moment.

"Jamie McPherson (a striker) and Mark Holmes (midfielder) could make it with us hopefully.

"Both are 22 years of age", added Farina.

Meanwhile Farina's star attacking-defender Alan Hunte, is expected to sign up with the Strikers again for another season. If he does,

Farina will automatically appoint big Alan as the Club's captain.

Another player Farina has in mind, and could sign up, is Brisbane City's 22 year old midfielder, Damien Waugh.

"We are also looking overseas for a couple of players, especially another goalscorer.

"Rod Brown who last season had one of his best ever seasons in the League, scoring 13 goals for us, has signed again, despite rumours that he was heading south to join a Sydney club", said Farina.

Brown's name was strongly linked with Sydney United last month as United's coach Branko Culina was, and still is, in the race for an experienced striker to solve his team's goal-drought last season.

One player that Farina was exceptionally keen to snap up was Adelaide City's mobile central midfielder, Craig Foster.

But it was always going to be Marconi that would win the race for this prized signing which in fact crystallised late last month.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

draw on page 2).

The Waratah Cup, won last year by Sydney United, will again carry the magnificent cash prize of \$50,000 for the eventual winner.

In making the draw, the president of the NSW Soccer Federation, Mr Peter Gray, stated: "This is the biggest and

richest Soccer Cup in Australia.

"Round 6 sees that we are now down to the last 16 teams.

"Over 400 teams kicked off for the Waratah Cup and we hope that next season it will be even bigger", ended Gray.

The six teams from the



Frank Farina: Transfer market is off limits at this time for the new coach.

Ericsson League now coming into the Cup are: Canberra Cosmos, Marconi, Newcastle Breakers, UTS Olympic, Sydney United and Wollongong City.

The 10 sides from the various NSW and ACT State Leagues that still remain in the Cup are: Bathurst '75 Division 1, Canterbury Marrickville Super League, Highfields Wolves Northern NSW, Hills United Division 1, Parramatta Eagles Super League, Rockdale Suns Super League, Sutherland Shire Super League, Sydney Cosmos Division 1, Warringah Dolphins Super League and Weston Creek ACT Premier.

Round 6 kicks off on August 31 with the Final set down for Sept 22nd.



Peter Gray: President of NSW Soccer Federation.

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STAR PROFILE

Frank Mengotti



Date of Birth: June 26, 1962.
Birthplace: Brisbane.
Previous Clubs: Brisbane United and Brisbane City.
Current Club: Brisbane Lions (Qld XXXX State League).
Position: Central midfield-playmaker.
Nickname: 'Gotts' and 'Skippy'.
Marital Status: Married to Loretta.
Occupation: Bank Officer.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Long passing and vision.
Most Difficult Opponent: Marshall Soper.
Most Impressive Local Player: Damien Waugh.
Favourite Overseas Player: Vialli.
Favourite Overseas Club: Liverpool.
What Should Australia Do To Qualify For Next World Cup: Far more trial matches in Europe for Australia's overseas-based players, with a part-time European-based coach assisting their preparation.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Possess ability of excellent communication with his players and to command their respect.
Honours: Queensland's rep teams fro 1986 to '96.
Ambitions For 1996: To win the Qld XXXX State League championship by winning the Grand Final.
Ambitions After Retiring: To enjoy life to the fullest and maybe get involved with some coaching at some level.
Most Memorable Moment: Scoring Queensland's equalising goal vs NSW in 1987 in a match that Manchester United's Bryan Robson was a guest player for our side.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf, tennis and fishing.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Marco Van Basten's Euro championships 1988 against Russia.
Favourite Food: A good solid steak.
Favourite Drink: Bacardi and Coke or a Qld XXXX beer.
Car You Drive: Mazda 323 Protege.
Favourite TV Show: E.R.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Neighbours.
Favourite Movie: The Great Escape.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Dustin Hoffman.
Preferred Music: Rock.
Least Preferred Music: Country.
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy.
Pet Hates: All people that walk into a lift before you are allowed to get out.
Special Advice To Young Players: Train very hard and work on all your weaknesses, show respect and NEVER think you are too good.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Kieren Perkins.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

RONNIE SMITH, former boss at the A.I.S. and currently coaching in the Malaysian Soccer League, as expected, is doing extremely well.

The highly efficient and most likeable Smith, departed from his Canberra post to take over Malaysian side, Sabah.

With former St George striker, Scott Ollerenshaw spearheading Sabah's attack, galvanised with Smith's astute strategies, Sabah are currently second on the League, strongly pushing the League leaders Negri Sembilan all the way to the post.

WALTER ARDONE, Sydney Olympic's attacking, mobile central-midfielder, who made a rush trip two weeks ago to Mexico, has returned to Australia.

Unfortunately for Ardone he wasn't long enough in Mexico to impress the coaching staff there and registrations for all foreign players closed last week.

Ardone returned to Sydney last Saturday and rejoined Olympic's pre-season training, on Sunday.

A high-profile coach in the Ericsson League is amazed by Soccer Australia's extremely harsh (if not totally unreasonable) attitude shown towards Marconi's logo.

The coach told 'Good Oil', "Just how much more patriotic a logo could Marconi have than one that incorporates a boomerang."

"It seems to me that the whole affair is now totally out of control and bordering on the idiotic," ended the coach.

NEGRI SIMBILAN, current leaders of the Malaysian National League, are due in Perth this week to



Ronnie Smith: Has Sabah in second position in the M-League.



Walter Ardone: Back with Olympic from Mexico.

play two matches against Perth Italia and Inglewood Kiev. The Malaysian leaders are

spearheaded by Australia's ball-playing midfielder Gus Cerro and ace goalscorer, Jose Iriarte.

MILAN BLAGOJEVIC, Sydney Olympic's elegant sweeper, has still not re-signed a contract but is expected to do so sometime this week.

Meanwhile Olympic's new signings to date are former World Youth Championship goalkeeper, Anthony Franken, attacking midfielder from Sydney United Jimmy Patikas, explosive paced left midfielder Steve Refenes who has been playing in Greece since after the Barcelona Games, plus 18 year old

strapping right midfielder from the AIS, Bert Emmerton.

Olympic will play a challenge match against Marconi this Saturday night set down for 7pm at the Marconi Stadium for the 'Brescia Cup'.

Marconi's coach Manfred Schaefer wants to fine tune his squad with this match against Olympic before Marconi fly out next Tuesday, bound for Shanghai, China.

Marconi will play two exhibition matches against local sides in Shanghai.

PETER GUNNING, the outstanding acrobatic goalkeeper with Sydney Cosmos in the NSW first division, is being targeted by at least four clubs from the Ericsson League.

West Adelaide and



Milan Blagojevic: Olympic's elegant sweeper, to re-sign.

Newcastle are two, but there are another two very interested sides from NSW also keen to snap up Gunning.

GEORGE BOUHOUTSOS, Olympic's 26 year old goalkeeper, is almost certain to retire from Soccer, at least for one season, due to business commitments.

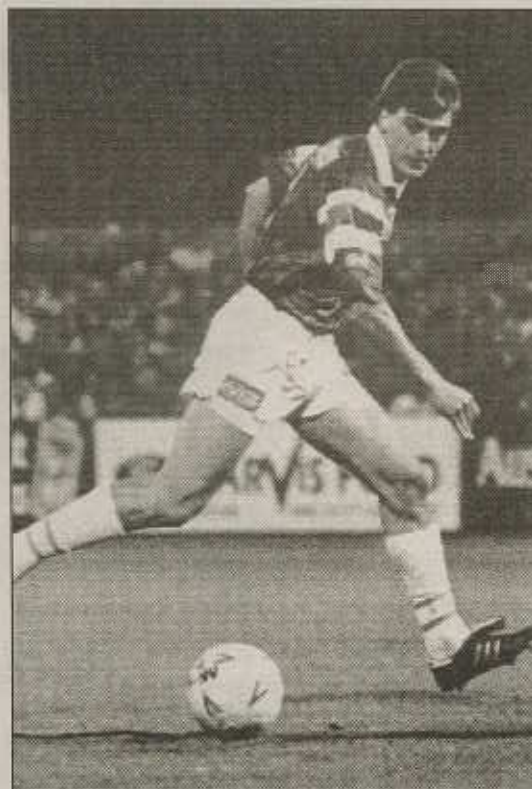
Bouhoutsos is in partnership with his Father and are engaged in the building industry.

The solid custodian at the moment feels he will not have time to devote to training.

Olympic now have lost both goalkeepers from last season's squad.

Mike Gibson has been transfer-listed by coach David Ratcliffe.

ROSS GREER, the highly talented midfielder from Perth will not be returning to Hong Kong despite attractive offers being offered to him to re-



Jose Iriarte: Ace-goalscorer in Malaysia.

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CONTACT MARCONI FAIRFIELD SOCCER OFFICE ON

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(Registrations Close 5pm, Friday August 23, 1996)

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

STAR PROFILE Kevin Meacock



Date of Birth: September 16, 1965.
Birthplace: Bristol, England.
Previous Clubs: Bristol City, Gisbourne City, Brisbane Strikers, Hong Kong Rangers.
Current Club: Brisbane Lions.
Position: Striker-cum-midfielder.
Nickname: "Meeks"
Marital Status: Married with two children.
Occupation: P.E. Teacher.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Ability to score from midfield.
Most Difficult Opponent: David Hunter.
Most Impressive Local Player: Steven Starr.
Favourite Overseas Player: Robbie Fowler.
Favourite Overseas Club: Liverpool.
What should Australia Do To Qualify For Next World Cup: Play regularly against top quality opposition.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Ability to improve team performance through relevant and motivational training sessions.
Honours: League champion N.Z., Queensland Cup Winners, Hong Kong, N.Z.
Ambitions For 1996: To win Queensland's Grand Final and to progress past the first round of the 'Johnnie Walker Cup' next month.
Ambitions After Retiring: Work in Junior development.
Most Memorable Moment: Scoring two goals vs Adelaide City for Brisbane Strikers.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: My two children.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Tony Yeboah's for Leeds United v Liverpool (volley).
Favourite Food: Roast Chicken.
Favourite Drink: Fruit Juice.
Car You Drive: Toyota.
Favourite TV Show: English Soccer and Foreign correspondent.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: All soaps.
Favourite Movie: 'When Harry Met Sally'.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Meg Ryan.
Preferred Music: Michelle Shocked.
Least Preferred Music: Rap.
Favourite Comedian: Lennie Henry.
Pet Hates: Ignorant and arrogant people.
Special Advice To Young Players: Watch all good players and learn from them.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Enjoy meeting all people that are open minded and positive.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



sign.

It is almost certain that Greer has chosen to remain back in Perth and turn out with Gary Marocchi's Perth Glory in their inaugural season in the national league.

SOCCER AUSTRALIA's Board of Commissioners met last Sunday at the Soccer body's headquarters at the Sydney Football Stadium to discuss some pretty important, and very sensitive issues.

One issue was David Hill's remunerative package.

The other was on that dreaded subject of Club logos that S.A. finds obtrusive in its merchandising plans.

The meeting of our Soccer bosses kicked-off at 10am and went through till 4pm.

S.A.'s President, Mr Neville Wran, unable to attend, was involved via a telephone hook-up.

One issue was amicably resolved but the 'problematic logo-affair' was left unresolved.

Discussions held prior with four offending clubs such as Adelaide City, South Melbourne, Sydney United and the Melbourne Knights, were all asked to change their logos or colours incorporated in their logos.

Marconi as well were ordered to make similar changes and understandably, have to date, steadfastly refused to do so.

The other four Clubs have all 'courageously' stated to S.A. that they 'would only change if everybody else changes'.

Meanwhile Marconi, although gently threatened with possible expulsion from the National League, has made it crystal clear they will make no changes whatsoever to their logo or colours, firmly believing their logo is traditional, non-offensive and certainly none-political.

Rather than risk Soccer's overall image being yet again tarnished in the media should an all-out-brawl break out, David Hill requested that he be allowed to approach Marconi himself to resolve the



David Hill: Set to meet Marconi to resolve their dispute.

whole ludicrous affair. Marconi's meaningful logo which depicts a globe, a transmitting tower with a boomerang across the face, is the focus of this whole and threatening-to-be most unpleasant upheaval. ZORAN MATIC, Collingwood Warriors' master-coach, is understood to have signed up at least six players to date with more to come.

Heading his list so far, are: goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis, defensive midfielder Carlo Talladira plus pacey left



Zoran Matic: Has only made six signings to date.

flanker Con Boutsianis.

Matic is also expected to have signed up two 30 year olds, and fully experienced players currently from the first division in the Ukraine.

Matic last night told 'Good Oil': "One is a midfielder and the other is a centre-back or sweeper. We'll have to see when they arrive."

"All we are waiting for now is for the Department of Immigration to sort out the

necessary paper-work".

Matic also informed us that former Heidelberg United attacking left midfielder, Peter Tsolakis who has been playing in Malaysia lately, has agreed to terms with Collingwood.

Matic expects to sign up Tsolakis sometime today.

Matic is still searching for a prolific goalscorer to add to his squad.



MARCONI v UTS OLYMPIC



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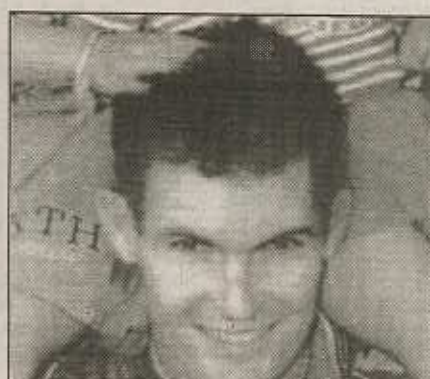
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Dear Sir,
Recently PM Howard gave an in depth interview on matters sport to the SMH. Mr Howard is very sports minded with soccer being one of the games he played for six years in his younger days.

His soccer career was with a church team which brings up the little mentioned or known involvement of the Protestant Churches with soccer in NSW and QLD under the banner of the Protestant Churches Soccer Association.

The PCSA was mainly centred on certain working class and lower middle class areas of Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, Hunter Region and Brisbane Ipswich.

In more affluent but strong Protestant areas like Sydney's North Shore it was almost non-existent.

In its heyday before and for some years after the ethnic takeover of soccer it had the largest number of junior and amateur recreational players in Australia and was a real force in the game. It still exists today but because of the changing demographics of Sydney's population, the growth of Junior Associations and the lesser number of

people involved with mainstream churches it is much diminished, rarely rating a mention.

Overall the Protestant Churches involvement with soccer in NSW and QLD which goes back a long way seems only to confirm that for the vast majority of Anglo Australians who have had some involvement with soccer the interest is overwhelmingly recreational.

This attitude it would appear has existed long before the ethnic takeover of Oz soccer and would hardly change if the ethnic involvement was completely erased.

What SA and its supporters cannot come to terms with is in the minds of mainstream Australia soccer is at best only a recreational game as the Protestant churches Soccer Association has perfectly demonstrated for umteen years.

PM John Howard and David Hill have at least one thing in common, they are both recreational soccer players, one in the past and the other still going between his travels.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.

STICK WITH SBS!

Dear Sir,
I am writing this letter in regards to Channel 7's soccer coverage, or lack of, from the Olympics. I would hope that Mr Hill or anyone else in the ASF hierarchy do not honestly believe that Commercial TV stations will ever give soccer a decent bit of coverage.

This also leads me to conclude that 'de-ethnicising' the clubs will not work.

Mainstream 'Australian' Anglo-Saxons do not like the game and any move to remove existing clubs on the basis of their origins, emblems, colours, etc. will definitely lead to the death of this great game in this country.

So Mr David Hill & Co., take note and do not go along the path to destroying Soccer in Australia by barking up the wrong tree.

Channels 7, 9, 10 and even the ABC never have and never will care about Soccer.

SBS has been the only one to wave the flag for the code.

NB: An article appeared in the Daily Telegraph pg. 46 (1.8.96) stating Soccer as the most popular event in the Olympics in terms of attendance.

I wonder if Channel 7 know about that?

Jose Rodriguez,
Canley Vale, NSW.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper



OCEASIA?

Dear Sir,
I can't help but agree wholeheartedly with Henry's views on Oceania.

The recent decision by FIFA will, I believe, slow down our progress.

The benefits with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) are enormous.

Regular, and serious opposition for our national side and a next or higher level for our clubs.

It's interesting to note that there are four clubs who enter the second round of the 16th Asian Club Championship,

and six clubs doing likewise in the Asian Cup Winner's Cup.

Surely an Australian side could find a place if we were welcomed.

While it's true that UEFA president Lennart Johansson advocated that Asia and Oceania become one, why is it that when it came to the vote, it ended up being 172 to 1?

Another question that should be asked is why the AFC would openly welcome Israel but scorn us.

But let's not all be doom and gloom, as the decision of

Japan and Sth Korea co-hosting World Cup 2002, could help our cause.

If the status-quo of four teams from Asia/Oceania remains for 2002, as it is for 1998, to qualify for the World Cup, then just maybe the AFC may welcome us on board, because I can't see them being too pleased with the remaining 40 or so Asian nations fighting for a number 1 guaranteed spot and another playing Australia for the last spot.

George Kaye,
Malvern, VIC.

Market the Product

By abolishing ethnic logos from club shirts, Soccer Australia believes that they will attract more 'Australians' through the gate. That more people will buy the merchandise, be more interested in the game and so on.

The reason why Australian Soccer has not kicked on and remains the 'sleeping giant' of Australian sport is a distinct lack of support, marketing, promotion and advertising by Soccer Australia.

A small, insignificant advertisement at the bottom of the general circulation, daily newspapers on a Friday afternoon does nothing to promote soccer.

When was the last time that Soccer Australia had a proper advertising campaign on commercial television? The answer, never.

Granted that SA does not

have the funds to do a Tina Turner style or an AFL star studded ad. But, take a look at rugby union's simple but effective campaign with an easy, catchy tune that sticks in a person's head and just shows action from rugby games. Surely such a project would not cost that much, even Marconi used to have ads on commercial television two seasons ago.

This would increase the profile of soccer, make it more accessible and make it appeal to the general public.

SA cannot just rely on the hope that a commercial network will do a story on soccer and gain some exposure.

Soccer has to generate an excitement about itself before a commercial network will touch it.

Sydney United just went overseas for a tour of Croatia,

not one piece of footage has been shown anywhere on television. However, when a Japanese club side comes here, the Japanese media follows them around and there is even a live broadcast of the game to Japan.

If a rugby league team went overseas there would be full radio and television and print media coverage.

The media has room for soccer, the public want to know more about it, all it needs is great marketing from the top. The clubs can only do so much. Soccer Australia has let down the clubs and fans of Australian Soccer in this manner for too long. Instead of promoting their product they have down graded it and continue to do so.

The day that SA wakes up to itself and sees the error of its ways it may be too late and the true fans

E.T. TOO NEGATIVE

Dear Sir,

Of course by now you would all be well aware of Australia's failure to progress in the Atlanta Olympic football tournament.

If this 'gallant failure' would hasten the overdue departure of Eddie Thomson from national coaching ranks I would consider it a small price to pay. However, for reasons which I cannot comprehend, his position seems to have become a sinecure.

Any amateur expert can tell you that to defend a 2-0 lead against a talented team like Spain by falling back to your penalty area for 75 odd minutes is fraught with danger. Aurelio Vidmar himself said as much in 'The Age' of 26 July.

From what I can glean from recent comments of other Australian Socceroo players, many of them are also becoming disenchanted with Thomson's negative tactics and style.

The Socceroos used to draw healthy crowds, but support is dwindling. Australian national teams coached by Thomson are fast gaining a reputation for being teams which lack confidence, have a poor scoring rate and a chronic inability to defend any healthy lead.

This is despite the fact that the talent and experience available to Thomson within any given line up is undeniably greater than that available to any previous coach.

Those with longer memories recall that it was Eddie Thomson who captained and coached the now defunct Sydney City. Sure, under Thomson Sydney City tasted domestic success but that team was characterised by being dour, unadventurous, and defensive.

A study of Thomson's coaching record of NSL teams reveals that while Thomson was a successful league coach when 'first past the post' counted he was pointedly less successful in 'finals series'.

When there were no finals series he won league championships for Sydney City in 1980-82 and second placing in 1983.

In 1984 and 1985 he lost a northern conference final and a grand final with Sydney City and from 1987 to 1989 when coaching Sydney Olympic, that team missed the finals in 1987, lost their first finals match in 1987 and lost the grand final in 1989.

Although future success is never guaranteed and always hard earned, it's time for Soccer Australia to appoint a replacement coach, otherwise, despite the worthy ambitions of David Hill, our world ranking will slip further.

A successful national coach needs to have a positive attitude to winning, be a flexible tactician who can adapt his style to varied opposition and able to inspire the various national teams to crucial victories when they really matter in cup style competition.

Although Thomson had doubtless done his best, he has been found wanting in these areas and has well and truly passed his 'use by date'.

Just who his replacement should be is a matter for further debate. However, the necessity for change is undeniable.

Peter Kunz,
Chifley, ACT.

of Australian soccer will continue to leave and be replaced by no one.

Editors Note: This letter and last week's from the same two readers are extracts from one containing the two subjects. Hence some phrases are repeated.

Ante Grabovac
and Mile Abramovic,
Kingsgrove NSW.



MARRICKVILLE SOCCER CLUB (The Red Devils)

50th Anniversary Dinner
Saturday August 17, 1996

Canterbury Gardens Racecourse
from 7pm \$50 per head
Scrumptious 3 course dinner, beer, wine, soft drinks

Bookings Ron Royston (02) 9718 1239 (b)
or Club House (02) 9558 5849 (ah)

Kilmarnock head Scottish table

Former England midfielder Trevor Steven fired Glasgow Rangers to a season-opening 1-0 victory over Raith on Saturday as the defending champion began its quest for a record equalling ninth consecutive Scottish title.

The 32-year-old Englishman scored from close range after Raith goalkeeper Scott Thomson had dropped a cross from Rangers' German international Jorg Albertz.

Even with another English star, Paul Gascoigne, missing because of an ankle injury, Rangers stayed in control before 46,221 fans at Ibrox and team captain Richard Gough almost made it 2-0 with a header which Thomson managed to punch onto the crossbar.

Celtic, which set the record from 1966-74 under coach Jock Stein, needed a last-minute equaliser from German striker Andreas Thom to salvage a 2-2 draw at Aberdeen.

Celtic went ahead in the 24th minute at Pittodrie when Dutch striker Pierre van Hooydonk fired home a 25 metre free kick.

Aberdeen fielded Bulgarian internationals Ilian Kiriakov and Tzanko Tzvetanov on the team for the first time and turned the game around in the second half.

Despite the absence of Italian import Paolo Di Canio, who was injured, Celtic looked set to take all three points until English defender Alan Stubbs, another new signing, was shown the red card for hauling down Aberdeen substitute Duncan Shearer in the penalty area 16 minutes from the end.

Dean Windass drove home the penalty kick. Six minutes later, Shearer fired in a rebound after Celtic goalkeeper Gordon Marshall had blocked a shot from Windass.

Celtic looked like going home pointless until

Thom squeezed the ball in from close range after Van Hooydonk had headed down a centre.

Kilmarnock won 2-1 at Hibernian with goals from Ally Mitchell and John Henry while Motherwell gained a 1-1 draw at promoted Dundee United thanks to an equalizer by former PSV Eindhoven defender Michel Van Der Gaag 12 minutes from the end.



Pierre van Hooydonk: Opened scoring for Celtic with 25 metre free kick.

CUP HOLDERS GO OUT IN GERMANY

Holder Kaiserslautern crashed out of the German F.A. Cup in the first round over the weekend, losing 1-0 away to tiny regional league side Greuther Fuerth.

Kaiserslautern, coached by former Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen boss Otto Rehhagel, failed to convert a series of chances after falling behind to a 47th-minute free kick from Fuerth's Markus Lotter.

The defeat at the hands of the Bavarian side was a bitter blow for



Kaiserslautern, which had hoped to banish last season's bad form which cost its place in the top division.

Bayern Munich notched up a comfortable 3-0 win over Borussia Berlin.

Shearer scores at Sincil Bank

Alan Shearer, Newcastle's world record signing, found his goal-scoring touch in his first outing for his new club in a 2-0 victory over Lincoln in a friendly last week.

As Newcastle warmed up for its Charity Shield clash with English champions and Cup-holders Manchester United, the \$A30million England striker coolly slotted home a first-half penalty to open his account.

Belgian defender Philippe

Albert stole forward to settle the issue by doubling Newcastle's tally midway through the second half as the league runners-up, minus only the services of virus-hit Les Ferdinand, turned on the style against their third division hosts.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan unleashed Shearer for the full 90 minutes, but it was nine minutes before the former Blackburn star managed to get even a touch.



Alan Shearer: Justified the record crowd with a goal.

POMPEY CHIMES RING FOR VENABLES

Former Barcelona, Tottenham and England coach Terry Venables appears set to take over at division one club Portsmouth as its Director of Football.

Although speculation has been rife that Venables would have a major connection with the struggling south-coast club, he announced at a news conference last week during half time at a pre-season exhibition game, that he was having talks with the owners.

"I have come down to have a look because they have asked me to help," said Venables, who announced several months ago he would quit as England coach

after this summer's European Championship.

Venables, who won domestic titles with Barcelona and Tottenham, decided to step down as England coach because he was facing a series of time-consuming legal actions arising out of his business interests.

He led England to a semi-final of the European Championship and the team only lost to eventual champion Germany after a penalty shootout.

Portsmouth won back-to-back English titles in 1949 and '50 but has spent only one season in the top flight since 1959.

Pearce reconsiders international future

England manager Glenn Hoddle has persuaded veteran defender Stuart Pearce not to retire from international soccer.

The Nottingham Forest left-back, capped 69 times for his country, announced his retirement after England's semi-final exit from the European Championship in June.

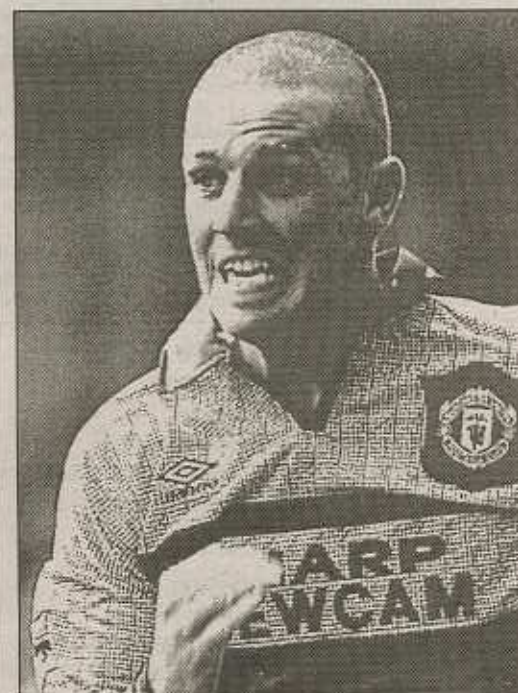
But, after talking to Hoddle last weekend, he asked for a few days to reconsider his decision.

Last week the 34-year-old said he would be available for England's first qualifying match for the 1998 World Cup, against Moldova on September 1.



Stuart Pearce: Available for England?

Leeds sign Lee Sharpe



Lee Sharpe: Joining a keen Leeds outfit.

Leeds completed the signing of forward Lee Sharpe from English premier league rival Manchester United for \$A8 million last week.

The deal takes Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson's off-season spending to \$A18 million following the acquisition of Charlton midfielder Lee Bowyer and Crystal Palace

goalkeeper Nigel Martyn, while Liverpool striker Ian Rush joined on a free transfer.

Sharpe, who won eight England caps in an eight-year spell at United, opted to move in the face of intense competition for places at Old Trafford following the signing of Czech midfielder Karel Poborsky and Dutch forward Jordi Cruyff.

United bring Newcastle down to earth

Manchester United thrashed Newcastle 4-0 in the Charity Shield at Wembley on Sunday as Alex Ferguson's men blew apart Kevin Keegan's talented outfit.

Eric Cantona, Nicky Butt, David Beckham and Roy Keane found the net as last year's league and FA Cup double winners added another trophy to their cabinet.

Cantona, the man who scored the winner in the FA Cup final, again proved the man for the big occasion by getting the opening goal after 25 minutes.

Beckham threaded a through ball to an unmarked Cantona out on the right and he took his time before firing past Pavel Smicek.

United added a second on the half-hour when Beckham drove in a cross after a clever back heel by Cantona and Nicky Butt powered a header home.

United coasted to a comfortable victory by adding further goals in the 86th and 88th minutes.

Beckham, who had played so impressively throughout the match, flicked the ball over the advancing Smicek after being released by Cantona.

Then Keane made it 4-0 two minutes later with a fierce shot following a rolled free-kick from Giggs.

It's not often Manchester United fans are outnumbered, but they were as Alan Shearer, the world record signing, took centre stage against the Double winners.

Shearer gave a damning assessment of his new team's performance.

"We were hopeless in the first half and not much better in the second," he said.

"We can get a lot better but there isn't going to be any magic wand. We aren't suddenly going to start scoring goals from everywhere."

But Shearer said he was confident Newcastle would quickly improve.

"We were pretty desperate and we are all disappointed - but the season hasn't started yet. We wanted to win, but really this was just another pre-season friendly."

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was delighted with his team's performance - and the way they countered the threat of Shearer.

"They say Shearer is the best, but he was playing against the best in Gary Pallister. Pallister was marvellous."

Ferguson said United had played well as a team, but he was pleased with the performances of new signings Jordi Cruyff and Karel Podborsky.

"They showed enough today for our fans to know they have class," he said. "They will be value for money."

The result was a huge disappointment for the big Newcastle contingent in the 73,000 crowd.

Shearer could not escape the man-to-man marking of David May, and Kevin Keegan's men looked a shadow of the fluent attacking team which so nearly won the championship last year for the first time since 1927.

Cantona, at the centre of everything for United, showed the dark side of his character as well as his brilliance, and got himself booked on the hour for

striking out at Newcastle's Belgian fullback Philippe Albert.

As tempers rose and the storm clouds gathered over Wembley, Newcastle started to come back into the match.

England midfielder Robert Lee saw a scorching half-volley stopped by the ever-dependable Peter Schmeichel in the United goal, and striker Les Ferdinand began to find space where Shearer could not.

As Newcastle pushed forward they left holes at the back, and Cantona, captaining his side this season, was in a mood to exploit them.

Five minutes from time, with the rain pouring down, he lofted a long ball from inside his own half into the path of Beckham. The 21-year-old, who had an outstanding game, lobbed the ball over the onrushing Smicek to make the score 3-0.

Irish midfielder Roy Keane completed Newcastle's misery two minutes from time with a sweet strike from the edge of the box to complete the biggest Charity Shield win by any side for 18 years.

For Keegan, who has rebuilt his side at massive cost over the past four years, the defensive weaknesses that plagued his side last year were again in evidence, and will need to be rectified quickly.



Eric Cantona: Opened the scoring at Wembley.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Falcons hover over Panthers

With just two rounds remaining, the Premier League championship continues to hang in the balance after last weekend's results where the top three secured crucial points in their respective fixtures.

Inglewood Falcons enjoyed a brief stint at the head of the standings following their 3-0 win over Perth last Saturday before the Panthers returned them to second place after they surprisingly drew with lowly Swan IC on Sunday.

The Inglewood result also meant that they have now gone 545 minutes, (since June 22) without conceding a goal, which eclipses the Panthers' record of 500 minutes at the start of the season.

After a hectic start in which the Falcons squandered four clear chances in the opening 22 minutes, the visitors

eventually hit the front four minutes before the break when Gavin Tait set up John Hunter to power a Lou Collova corner past Vince Matassa.

Tait himself increased the Falcons advantage in the 63rd minute on the break and again three minutes from time with a diving header to a Hunter miskick.

Perth's strikers on goal were few and far between, their strongest chance fell to Peter Coci who headed a Vince Tana cross just centimetres wide of Ron More's goal.

A controversial penalty two minutes from time has left Bayswater level on points with Inglewood on the ladder after their game with Swan at Bayswater Oval ended 2-2.

Kevin Molyneux gave the Panthers the right start when he put away a Shane Fuhr



Gavin Tait: Set up first goal and scored in the 63rd.

centre after 26 minutes.

But Ori Colli put Swan on level terms seconds before the break with a gift after goalkeeper Robbie Scarparollo failed to hold a Darren Freeman strike.

The championship favourites regained the lead in the 55th minute when Ross Greer headed a Paul

Dimmock cross home at the far post, but Bayswater were denied maximum points after midfielder Rene de Koning was adjudged to have handballed when simply protecting himself from a close range shot.

Damien Scali converted the spot-kick to give him eight goals for the season.

STIRLING CLING TO OUTSIDE CHANCE

Defending champions Stirling Macedonia are still in with a very slim chance of retaining the league title after a 3-1 win over Sorrento at Macedonia Park.

Neil Blunt gave the Gulls an ideal start in the fifth minute when he pounced on and tucked away a dropped ball from the goalkeeper.

But Stirling attacking midfielder Steve Bourne equalised three minutes before the interval then put

his side ahead in the 71st minute.

Andy Wright made it 3-1 in the 87th minute when he punished another dropped ball after Willie McNally found an Alex Cummings free-kick too hot to hold.

Spearwood Dalmatinac remain in fourth position thanks to a 4-2 triumph against Floreat Athena at the Lake Monger Velodrome. Craig Rourke and Dean Gartside netted a brace each.



Steve Bourne: Equalised for Stirling in the 42nd which set the team on course for victory.

COUNTDOWN BEGINS

History was in the making at Perth Oval last Thursday when Perth Glory had their first training session prior to entering the Ericsson Cup on Sunday October 13 versus UTS Olympic.

Eight players turned up for an extensive work-out under coach Gary Marocchi, captain Gareth Naven and brother Craig, Tom Maras, Scott Miller, Allan Armstrong, Paul Strudwick, Vladimir Beretovac and Paul McVittie were the men on hand.

Dale Wingell did not train because of an ear injury that was treated that day. The likes of Melbourne Knights star Vinko Buljbasic, Ferencvaros forward, Goran Kopunovic and young Kiwi international, Gavin Wilkinson will be arriving shortly.

Heidelberg duo Slobodan Despotovski and Harry Ngata have still to finalise terms, but will continue talks with the Glory once their top-5 play-off commitments in the VSL are over.

"We also hope to have a few juniors training with us very soon," said Marocchi who was still happy with the first night.

"The ground needs to have a bit of work done to it after a season of footy, but everything else is looking good."

Apart from Perth Oval, they will also be using Rosalie Park for a few weeks.

Meanwhile, the Glory have elected to overlook the pre-season Johnny Walker Cup this year, preferring to concentrate on making a grand entrance into the main league competition.



"Don't underestimate the crowd at our home games," warns Gary Lefort Glory General Manager. "We estimate there will be over 10,000 at our first match, and don't expect it to be much different for the other games."

So we encourage Perth people to seriously consider buying a season ticket to be assured of a seat."

There will be 6,000 seats and room for about 4,000 standing. Ticket prices range from \$12-15.



Gareth Naven: Glory skipper was at the first training session.

MALAYSIAN TEAM DROPS IN

Perth fans have another chance to see quality Asian football this week with the lightning visit by Malaysian League leaders Negri Sembilan.

This follows the visit by the Indonesian national team that played and lost on penalties to the WA state team last month.

Inglewood Falcons took on Sembilan last week at

the Kiev Sports Ground, and Perth SC will play them on Wednesday at Dorrien Gardens. Both games kick off at 7pm.

Sembilan currently have a seven point stranglehold on the league, and flew to Perth simply to hone their skills as they enter the business end of the season.



SUMMER COMPETITION ON ROPES

The move by Soccer West Coast to play Perth's Premier League competition in summer has come up against a brick wall in the shape of Soccer Australia.

In an effort to protect Perth Glory who will be playing Ericsson Cup soccer this Summer, the national body has referred to an agreement that was created in 1989 during the Australian Soccer Federation days, instructing all state bodies not to play their local competitions at the same time as the National League.

Soccer Australia General manager Peter

Russell said it would be ludicrous to entertain such a move just as the Glory was about to make history by entering their first ever season in the national competition. He did say however, that they may reconsider such a move at a later date.

Soccer West Coast President Nick MacQuallum, is reported to have said he is unaware of such an agreement and will be making some investigations before considering a challenge to Soccer Australia's orders.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Stirling Macedonia	3	Sorrento	1
Olympic Kingsway	1	Western Knights	4
Floreat Athena	2	Spearwood Dalmatinac	4
Perth SC	0	Inglewood Falcons	3
Bayswater Panthers	2	Swan IC	2

FIRST DIVISION

Bassendean Cale	0	Ashfield-Bunbury	3
Joondalup City	7	North Lake-Espanol	0
Dianella WE	A	Cockburn United	A
Southside United	0	Morley Windmillss	0
Perth City	1	Fremantle City	2
Rockingham City	2	Balcatta	0

A = Abandoned

SECOND DIVISION

Armada Park	0	Balga	4
Melville Corinthians	4	Stirling Vardar	1
University	2	Queens Park	4
Western Yugal	1	Wanneroo City	2

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayswater	16	12	2	2	40	12	38
Inglewood	16	12	2	2	32	14	38
Stirling	16	11	1	4	32	21	34
Spearwood	16	10	1	5	30	24	31
Perth SC	16	8	3	5	28	22	27
Floreat	16	4	6	6	25	30	18
Western K	16	4	3	9	22	26	15
Sorrento	16	3	3	10	16	25	12
Swan IC	16	2	3	11	17	38	9
Olympic	16	1	2	13	16	46	5

LEADING SCORERS

19 Robert Ferruzza	Bayswater
10 Peter Coci	Perth
9 Peter Murphy	Stirling
8 Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat
8 Neil Blunt	Sorrento
8 Damien Scali	Stirling
8 Eugen Singeorzan	W/Knights
7 Rob Milevski	W/Knights



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

ROCHEDALE SPOIL CITY'S PROGRESS

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane City coach Peter Tokesi was left lamenting what had gone wrong after being handed a sudden death existence to stay in the Fourx League playoffs series following their 2-1 defeat by Rochdale Rovers in the preliminary semi-final at Perry Park on Sunday.

Tokesi, the former great Brisbane City defender in the club's national league days, is at a loss to explain his side's recent form slump, which saw it surrender the premiership to arch rival Brisbane Lions last week.

"I don't know what's going wrong. If we had started like we had finished it might have been different," Tokesi said.

"I'm not criticising referees, but our defenders were being pulled up by the ref when they had opposing forwards at their feet all the time, yet if we tried the same thing we were penalised.

"If Hutcho had scored midway through the first half, who knows the game just might have been different."

From the opening whistle, Brisbane City appeared on the backfoot against Rochdale and it was not surprising to see Rochdale take an early lead after just eight minutes when Keiran Cooper threaded a perfect pass into the box for midfielder Craig Collins to drive home past a hapless City keeper Danny Duke.

If trailing by one-goal wasn't bad enough so early in the match, the Tokesi's headache surely must have turned into migraine proportions just five minutes later.

Brisbane City, who've had trouble this year resolving their central defensive partner for Mark Greer, promoted youngster Scott Elliott from reserve grade for the crucial semi clash and reinstated last week's defender Warren Cooley to his customary



striking role.

Unfortunately for Elliott, who generally had a fine overall game, it was his bad pass which allowed Rochdale to snap up possession, whisk the ball to Darren Hillier, who in turn floated a cross for Cooper to head home for the second.



City only then began to show some fighting spirit, and in the words of Tokesi, the result just might have been different had striker Ian Hutchinson been on target on 21 minutes.

Lanky midfielder Nick Seeley, who has been one of City's star performers in recent weeks, fired in a pinpoint cross for Hutchinson to head home with only keeper Clint Del Santo to beat, but his attempt at the sitter sailed over the bar.

The near miss sparked further life into City's play with nippy midfielder Simon Eslick striking the crossbar with an 18 metres drive ten minutes from the break.

Down a goal at half time, Brisbane City rallied, but again luck did not go their way when Hutchinson skimmed the crossbar with a drive.

Rochdale, who have a tendency to nod off once they

establish a comfortable lead, could have extended their lead on sixty six minutes when an Andy Lees' attempt was superbly blocked by goalkeeper Duke.

The match came to life on seventy six minutes when City's hard working midfielder Damien Waugh headed home a Seeley cross which gave their supporters hope of sending the match into extra time.



Unfortunately, their supporters wishes vanished thirteen minutes from time when sweeper Shane Haddow was sent off for dissent after objecting to an alleged dangerous tackle from Lees.

City will now play Taringa Rovers in the sudden death semi final next week after the Blues beat Wynnum 5-3 on penalties after the scores were locked 1-1 after normal time.

Taringa, led 1-0 at the break courtesy of an own goal from Wynnum's Billy McDermott and looked to have the semi final wrapped up until Wynnum grabbed the equaliser in injury time.

McDermott made amends for his first half indiscretion, forcing the match into extra time when he tucked home a shot off a Paul Wilkins free kick outside the area.

Taringa landed all of its five penalties, but again it was McDermott who took centre stage, when Taringa keeper Andrew Hobbs denied his spot attempt.



Brett McPaul: Young, midfielder of Brisbane Lions.



Robert Farrow: Veteran goalkeeper aiming for another medal in 1996.

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS

Preliminary Semi-Finals
ROCHEDALE ROVERS 2
BRISBANE CITY 1

Qualifying Semi Finals
TARINGA def WYNNUM
1-1 AET 5-3 PENS

DIVISION THREE

Western Suburbs	0	Souths United	3
Annerley Recreation	0	Mitchelton	2
Goodna & Districts	2	Newmarket	1
Laytrobe Athletic	0	Darra United	0
Clairvaux SC Inc.	0	Slacks Creek	6
Redlands United	0	Uni of Qld	2

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Slacks Creek	22	18	2	2	76	11	56
Mitchelton	22	17	1	4	79	21	52
Newmarket	22	14	3	5	43	22	45
Souths United	22	11	6	5	49	26	39
Redlands United	22	10	3	9	42	29	33
University of Qld	22	10	3	9	44	35	33
Darra United	22	8	7	7	45	39	31
Goodna & Districts	22	8	7	7	31	30	31
Laytrobe Athletic	22	5	6	11	43	60	21
Annerley Recreation	22	5	5	12	34	48	20
Clairvaux SC Inc.	22	2	1	19	26	87	7
Western Suburbs	22	2	0	20	12	16	6

DIVISION FOUR

Browns Plains	1	North Pine United	6
Redcliffe City	2	Brothers United	1
Bayside United	2	Moggill United	2
Pine Hills	5	Ipswich City	1
South Star	1	Southside Eagles	3
Samford	6	Greenbank	1

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Moggill United	22	16	2	4	65	14	50
South Star	22	16	2	4	65	14	50
Southside Eagles	22	16	2	4	66	25	50
Bayside United	22	14	3	5	58	32	45
North Pine United	22	13	2	7	54	36	41
Brothers United	22	12	3	7	50	43	39
Redcliffe City	22	10	5	7	58	51	35
Samford	22	8	3	11	44	35	27
Pine Hills	22	6	1	15	20	69	19
Greenbank	22	3	22	17	38	86	11
Browns Plains	22	3	1	18	25	73	10
Ipswich City	22	2	2	18	17	75	8

CHAMPIONS

Brusasco Cup Winners

1962	MERTON ROVERS	1979	GRANGE THISTLE
1963	HELLENIC	1980	GRANGE THISTLE
1964	MERTON ROVERS	1981	MT. GRAVATT
1965	LATROBE	1982	IPSWICH UNITED
1966	LATROBE	1983	OLYMPIC UNITED
1967	HOLLANDIA	1984	IPSWICH UNITED
1968	MERTON ROVERS	1985	IPSWICH UNITED
1969	HOLLANDIA	1986	COALSTARS
1970	AZZURI	1987	BRISBANE LIONS
1971	AZZURI	1988	NORTH STAR
1972	MERTON EAST	1989	EASTERN SUBURBS
1973	BRISBANE CITY	1990	BRISBANE CITY
1974	BRISBANE CITY	1991	BRISBANE LIONS
1975	BRISBANE CITY	1992	NORTH STAR
1976	BRISBANE CITY	1993	ROCHEDALE ROVERS
1977	REDLANDS UNITED	1994	NORTH STAR
1978	SOUTHSIDE EAGLES	1995	ROCHEDALE ROVERS



Northern New South Wales

BEARS THROUGH TO GRAND FINAL

BY DANE SKAFTE

Weston Bears continued to dominate the first division competition after their 2-0 win over Hamilton Warriors last Sunday in the major semi final at Weston Park.

With the Bears going into the match undefeated all season and playing on their home turf the Warriors had to produce some sort of magic to outplay the Bears with the winner going through to the Grand Final in two weeks time.

A missed kick by Weston keeper Peter Oberhauser nearly cost his side an early goal in the twenty third minute.

Oberhauser's stumble went straight to Warriors midfielder Glen Chapman who only had to side foot the ball into the net but his shot went towering over the bar.

This was a costly mistake for the Warriors with Weston having several chances in the first half but failing to find the net.

The Bears took the lead one minute after the break when a goalmouth scramble saw Anthony Beckett hit the upright and receive the rebound but keeper Harris parried the ball away into the path of Ian Tressider who slotted the ball home.

Weston could have wrapped the game up in the sixty fifth minute when Beckett's cross went close to the far post with no one to finish off.

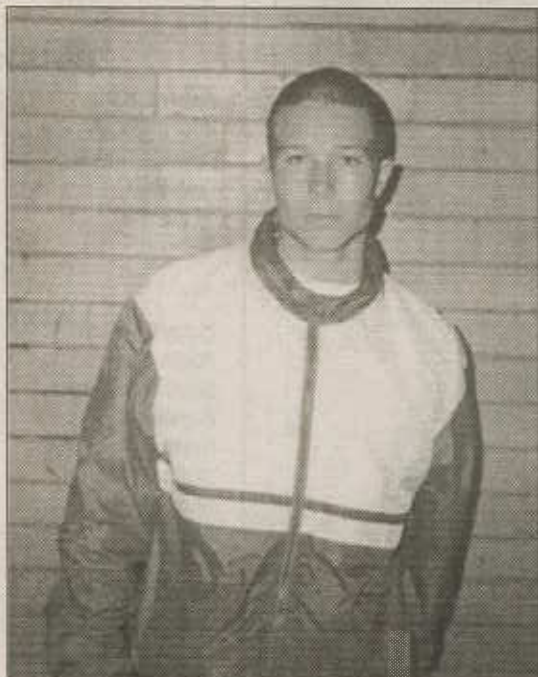
Weston were rewarded with their second goal in the final fifteen minutes when Anthony Richards hit a low shot past Harris.

Bears coach Keith Harris was delighted with the result, "We deserved to win today the guys worked hard

(Continued column 5)



Ian Tressider: Weston striker always looked dangerous near the ball.



Matt Austin: Defender has played outstanding all season for the Warriors.

DELAYED REPORT

Deloraine Eagles outplayed Wallsend Red Devils by winning 2-1 in the elimination semi final of the NBN Soccer League.

The Eagles dominated the Devils during the first forty-five minutes of the wind-swept match.

The Eagles opened their account in the sixth minute when Gordon headed home a diving header after some good build up work by Grant Clouten and Elkin.

Edgeworth went further ahead in the nineteenth minute after Elkin knocked a superb cross to Clouten who hit the ball wide of keeper Darren Moore to go into the break leading 2-0.

The Devils pulled a goal back thanks to Michael Nechakoski who caught the Eagles defence off guard with only four minutes left in the match.

Eagles coach Bobby Namouv agreed that his side put out one by a greater margin "we should have scored two or three more goals in the first half to finish them (Wallsend) off he said, we sat back in the second half and Wallsend looked dangerous in the final twenty minutes" he said.

Namouv was happy that his team was scoring goals in the final matches. "We have scored twenty goals in the last four games and have only conceded four everyone is playing with confidence at the moment and I have been happy with the way that Darren Elkin and Danny Gordon have been performing," Namouv concluded.

In the other match Hamilton Warriors defeated the Highfields Wolves 4-2 in a penalty shoot out after the match was locked at 1-1 after extra time.

The Warriors opened the scoring in the fifteenth minute after striker Harry James knocked a ball home from close range.

Highfields levelled the scores with only five minutes left in the first half when Todd McManus beat several defenders and knocked the ball into the net.

Wolves started to dominate when McAuley was brought down in the area. He took the kick sending Conway the wrong way.

Edgeworth continued to push forward and paid the price in the seventy third minute after a bad defensive error saw Wolves striker Ty Turner beat Conway and knock the ball home.

The Wolves drove home the final nail in the last ten minutes through Mick Williams after a cross by McAuley.

Highfields coach Steve Bland agreed that his team performed well and the rewards went their way, "We were unlucky not to have scored a couple more. The side worked so well as a unit, our two front runners Bret (McAuley) and Ty (Turner) performed well."

A disappointed Eagles coach Bobby Namouv acknowledged that they (Highfields) were a better side on the day, "We were always on the back foot from the start. We had a couple of chances but they punished us near the end."

(continuation from column 1)

all through the match it was always going to be a tough game. I thought that Jamie Wile played quite well to contain Hamilton's Benn Lane. He (Ben) is a very talented player," Harris concluded.

A very upset Warriors coach Greg Smith said after the match that he was disappointed with the result, "I thought they (Weston) out-muscled us today. It was a matter of kick and chase for us, Weston certainly deserved to win."

Smith admitted that he was angry with the playing surface. "It was disgrace to have a semi-final played in these conditions, it was a total dust bowl. If the conditions had been better anything might have happened."

1996 NBN SOCCER LEAGUE FINAL SERIES

Sunday 18th August 1996
Lisle Carr Oval (Whitebridge)

1st Grade:			
Highfields Wolves	v	Hamilton Warriors	2.30pm
Res Grade:			
Wallsend	v	Hamilton Warriors	12.45pm
18's:			
Wallsend	v	Highfields Wolves	11.15pm

1996 TOOHEYS 2ND DIVISION FINAL SERIES

Saturday 17th August 1996
Lisle Carr Oval (Whitebridge)

1st Grade:			
Dudley-Redhead	v	Budgewoi Budgies	
Res Grade:			
Lambton Jaffas	v	Manning Mustangs	
19's:			
Toronto Awaba	v	Manning Mustangs	

ILLAWARRA

PREMIER LEAGUE

Barilla sent off for foul on Barilla!

BY PHIL MURPHY

High drama at Graham Park on Saturday as West-Figtree pulled off an upset 4-2 win over third-placed Wollongong Olympic.

The game had everything. Six goals, a red card, six yellow cards, a serious injury to Figtree goalkeeper Shane Hawken and heated arguments after the final whistle.

Having lost 2-1 at home to Dapto the previous week, Figtree weren't expected to cause Olympic too much trouble.

Olympic coach John Fleming certainly didn't think so. He was overheard before the game describing Figtree as a "pub team" and word got back to the Figtree dressing room.

That could have helped motivate the Figtree players. They led 2-0 at halftime through Daniel Hastings and Mark Troth before Giovanni Aiella pulled one back after 55 minutes.

Hastings scored his second and George Antoniou kept Olympic in touch with a fine free kick.

Referee Bob Mazeviski then sent Olympic's Frank Barilla from the field for a second bookable offence and awarded the home team a penalty.

Striker Don Martinovski scored from the spot — his first league goal for the season. Figtree supporters wasted no time reminding the Olympic camp of the "pub team" comment after the final whistle.

Fleming said after the game Hastings should have been sent off in the first half for kicking Antoniou.

"Hastings got a yellow card but anywhere else in the world he would have been sent off," Fleming said.

Hawken was taken to hospital with a nasty gash over an eye.

FOOTNOTE: Frank Barilla was sent from the field for a foul on Frank Barilla. They are cousins and were playing in opposing teams.

Fernhill coach Peter Willis didn't know whether to laugh or cry after his team scored a surprise 2-0 away win against Port Kembla on Saturday. Willis was cited by referee Phil Torphy for harassing a linesman.

Richard Peil and Paul Giraldi got the goals for a Fernhill side which is looking better week by week.

It was Port Kembla's second successive defeat without finding the net. Coach Adrian Alston faces a busy week getting his team back on track for a very important clash against Wollongong Olympic.

This should be a real crowd-pleaser.

Dapto kept their slim top four hopes alive with a 2-0 home win against Coniston, Graeme Fletcher and Adam Boersma getting the goals.

At Unanderra Oval, a late goal from Josh Faulks gave Balgownie a 1-0 victory against bottom side Westderra.

Sunday's feature game proved something of a fizzer compared to what happened 24 hours earlier.

Leaders Lysaghts and Cringila played a scoreless draw at Lysaghts Recreation Ground.

POINTS TABLE: Lysaghts 44, Port Kembla 34, Wollongong Olympic 31, Bulli 29, Fernhill 26, Balgownie 25, Dapto 24, Cringila 22, West-Figtree 21, Coniston 20, Northern United 17, Westderra 12.

WEEKEND DRAW: Balgownie v Dapto, Cringila v Westderra, Bulli v Lysaghts, Fernhill v Northern United, Wollongong Olympic v Port Kembla (Sunday) and Coniston v Figtree.

WOLVES HOWL OVER EAGLES

Highfields Wolves showed plenty of commitment to outplay Deloraine Eagles 4-1 in the elimination semi final last Saturday night at Whitebridge Oval.

The Wolves took an early lead in the sixteenth minute after midfielder Todd McManus beat several players and crossed a great ball to Bret MacAuley who was lurking on the edge of the eighteen yard box he made no mistake with his low shot to give keeper Dean Conway little chance.

The Eagles levelled the scores in fine style after only twenty four minutes when Darren Elkin's cross went into the far corner with Wolves keeper Craig Shanko no where in sight.

Two minutes later the Eagles should have taken the lead when Elkin missed a sitter from close range after a good cross from Grant Clouten.

Highfield's second half effort was much better when Mark Wilson hit the upright in the second minute. It was not long before the





NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

DUBIOUS PENALTY LIFTS EAGLES

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1
(Malcolm Meilak 89 penalty)

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 0

BY BOB BROOKS

Despite an all action effort Blacktown City Demons still went without reward in their rearranged encounter with Parramatta Eagles last Wednesday night.

Parramatta moved to the top of the competition courtesy of a dubious penalty converted in the fifth minute of stoppage time by Malcolm Meilak.

The decisive moment came as Geoff Gunning powered into the Demons penalty area. With referee Simon Micallef 30 metres behind the play because of a swift counter attack, Blacktown's custodian came out to dive at the feet of Gunning.

Dragan Pupovac was adjudged to have fetched down the determined forward. Meilak stepped up to the ball and sent Pupovac the wrong way to deny Blacktown a share of the spoils that they so richly deserved.

Just before half time Antony Versi succumbed to a knee tendon injury with Jay Anderson coming on for the Demons as his replacement.

On two occasions in the second stanza, Anderson got behind the Eagles defence on the right flank. As he was about to line himself up for the cross he inexplicably stopped and left the ball.

Later questioning of the young and promising attacker revealed that he had heard a whistle, both times thinking it was the referee. This was not the case. The whistle was blown from within the crowd. Strangely the assistant referee took no action.

The Demons went at the Eagles and shocked the home side with their aggression. Scott Xuereb and Sarkis Boudaher went close early. Then Gunning brought out the best in Pupovac after the lively Eagles forward broke away. The keeper's one handed save conceded a corner which was easily cleared.

Five minutes into the

second 45 Christian Ortiz was sent off leaving the Eagles with ten men.

Parramatta had a lucky escape after 65 minutes. Steve Berry, the Demons captain, lifted the ball over the flailing arms of Jason Holmes. Anderson was in but Perdue bundled the ball just round the post.

From the resulting corner

Perdue was on hand to boot the ball off the line with Holmes well beaten.

Nine minutes later Glen Geppert emulated Perdue for Blacktown. Gunning had put a strong header towards Meilak, who booted goalwards only to be thwarted by the Demons defender.

The game was finally decided with the penalty.



Geoff Gunning: Judged to have been fouled in the box. The penalty decided the game.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 26

SUNDAY AUGUST 18

Warringah Dolphins v Adamstown Rosebud

Cromer Park, 3pm

Bonnyrigg WE v St George Saints

Serbian Centre, 3pm

Bankstown City Lions v Illawarra Lions

Jensen Park, 3pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Canterbury Marrickville

Lambert Park, 3pm

Sutherland Sharks v Parramatta Eagles

Seymour Shaw Park, 3pm

Rockdale City Suns v Macarthur Rams

Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre, 3pm

Blacktown City Demons v Central Coast

Gabbie Stadium, 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS
(Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	12	7	5	0	16	6	26
Sutherland Sharks	12	7	4	1	20	9	25
Illawarra Lions	12	7	2	3	24	20	23
St George Saints	12	6	3	3	22	13	21
Bankstown City	12	5	3	4	21	23	18
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	12	5	2	5	20	18	17
Canterbury Berrys	12	4	4	4	11	15	16
Leichhardt Tigers	11	3	5	3	16	18	14
Macarthur Rams	12	4	1	7	11	12	13
Blacktown City	12	3	3	6	18	18	12
Adamstown Rosebud	11	3	3	5	14	21	12
Rockdale City Sun	12	2	5	5	15	18	11
Warringah Dolphin	12	2	4	6	12	17	10
Central Coast	12	1	4	7	10	22	7

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	12	10	1	1	37	10	31
Sutherland Sharks	12	9	2	1	27	2	29
St George Saints	12	8	2	2	33	8	26
Macarthur Rams	12	8	2	2	22	10	26
Blacktown City	12	8	1	3	29	15	25
Adamstown Rosebud	11	6	0	5	26	24	18
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	12	5	3	4	19	17	18
Canterbury Berrys	12	4	2	6	31	34	14
Warringah Dolphin	12	3	3	6	17	20	12
Leichhardt Tigers	11	3	2	6	12	19	11
Bankstown City	12	2	2	8	10	34	8
Rockdale City Sun	12	2	1	9	16	29	7
Central Coast	12	1	3	8	11	28	6
Illawarra Lions	12	1	3	9	10	50	5

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	22	14	6	2	48	16	48
Belmore Hercules	23	11	8	4	55	30	41
Ryde City	23	11	8	4	44	19	41
Bathurst '75	22	10	8	4	36	23	38
Hills United	23	11	5	7	42	30	38
Auburn United	22	10	5	7	56	58	35
Penrith Panthers	23	9	6	8	43	41	33
West Wanderers	23	7	5	11	33	45	26
Stanmore Hawks	22	6	6	10	33	38	24
Sthn Minotaurs	22	6	6	10	31	43	24
Dulwich Hill	22	6	4	12	24	42	22
Mt Druitt Town	23	5	6	12	27	64	21
Fairfield Bulls	22	5	5	12	34	42	20

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	21	12	5	4	41	20	41
Hurstville	21	12	5	4	42	22	41
Sydney District	21	11	6	4	32	23	39
Concord Juniors	20	11	5	4	40	21	38
Alexandria Warrior	20	9	6	5	43	27	33
Parramatta City	21	8	5	8	38	29	29
Trasandinos	21	8	5	8	25	34	29
University of NSW	21	4	11	6	35	28	23
AC United	21	5	8	8	21	28	23
Liverpool City	21	5	5	11	33	38	20
Prairiewood	21	3	6	12	16	41	15
Granville G/Isind	21	2	3	16	22	87	9

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NNSW ITC	18	14	3	1	52	11	45
Marconi SC	18	11	4	3	37	17	37
Sydney Cosmos	18	12	1	5	49	20	37
NSW ITC/Penrith	17	10	3	4	43	19	33
St George	17	8	4	5	45	25	28
Sutherland Shire	18	8	3	7	21	25	27
UWS Macarthur	18	6	5	7	23	29	23
Gladesville Raven	18	3	4	11	16	40	13
Blacktown City	18	1	2	15	11	55	5
Macquarie Dist.	18	1	1	16	14	70	4

SUPER LEAGUE	1st	U/21
St George Saints v Sutherland Sharks	0-2	0-0
Parramatta Eagles v Blacktown City	1-0	0-1
Bonnyrigg WE v Bankstown City Lions	3-2	2-0
Illawarra Lions v Rockdale City Suns	1-1	3-2
Canterbury Berries v Sutherland Sharks	1-4	0-6
Adamstown Rosebud v Bonnyrigg WE	3-0	1-0
St George Saints v Bankstown City Lions	0-2	3-0
Illawarra Lions v Leichhardt Tigers	3-2	1-3
Parramatta Eagles v Rockdale City Suns	0-0	4-1
Macarthur Rams v Central Coast	0-1	1-1
Warringah Dolphins v Blacktown City	1-2	0-1

DIVISION ONE	1st	U/21	U/18
Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Penrith	1-1	0-1	0-4
Southern Minotaurs v Fairfield Bulls	1-0	0-3	5-0
Bathurst '75 v Auburn United	3-1	7-1	0-1
Southern Minotaurs v Hills United	1-1	0-3	0-3
West Wanderers v Stanmore Hawks	0-3	2-1	3-0
Sydney Cosmos v Penrith Panthers	1-0	0-3	2-2
Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Ryde City	1-3	1-8	1-4
Dulwich Hill v Mt Pritchard	1-2	0-7	0-2
Belmore Hercules v Fairfield Bulls	3-0	0-4	4-3

DIVISION TWO	1ST	U/21	U/18
Granville Greenisland v P'matta City	1-10	N/A	1-5
Greystanes v Prairiewood United	2-0	8-0	3-3
University of NSW v Trasandinos	4-1	2-0	P/P
AC United v Sydney District	0-0	1-1	3-1
Greystanes v AC United	0-0	4-0	0-2
Granville Greenisland v Sydney District	0-2	1-14	5-2
Concord Juniors v Prairiewood United	5-0	3-2	2-5
Liverpool City v Parramatta City	2-5	0-0	0-0
Alexandria Warriors v Trasandinos	1-1	0-5	2-0
University of NSW v Hurstville	0-2	1-1	1-1

DIVISION THREE	1ST	2ND
White City v Gladesville United	2-1	1-1
The Wanderers v Hakoah	2-0	N/A
The Wanderers v Gladesville United	1-1	0-3
Hawkesbury City v Earlwood Hermes	1-1	P/P
Hakoah v Moorebank Sports	0-0	0-6
White City v Colo Colo	3-2	2-1
Sporting SCC v St John's Park	2-3	4-4
Prospect United v Glebe Wanderers	2-1	0-2

DIVISION FOUR	1ST	2ND
Arncliffe Scots v Canleyvale Conors	7-1	0-0
St Joseph's v CSI Schofields	1-2	0-6
Springwood v Fairfield Kings	4-0	N/A
Sydney University v SCI Schofields	1-0	4-1
Lithgow Workmen v Arncliffe Scots	1-3	0-2
Angels Liverpool United v Fairfield Kings	1-2	0-2
St. Joseph's v Fraser Park	0-3	0-4
Springwood v Balmain	0-1	3-0
Marrickville Reds v Canley Vale Condors	1-0	3-1

MINOR SEMI FINALS	1ST	2ND
United Eagles v Camden	1-2	
Mascot Kings v Camden		1-3

MAJOR SEMI FINALS	6.00PM
Mascot Kings v Maroubra United	3-0
Nepean v Maroubra United	

DIVISION SIX	1ST	2ND
UWS Macarthur v Quens Park	1-0	N/A
NSW Police v Racing	4-2	2-3
Blacktown Premiers v Queens Park	N/A	0-3

WOMENS DIVISION ONE	1ST	2ND
MINOR SEMI FINAL		
Sydney Cosmos v NSW ITC	3-3	
Penalty Shootout	4-3	
UWS Macarthur v St George		1-0
MAJOR SEMI FINAL		
Northern NSW ITC v Marconi	2-0	
Marconi v Sydney Cosmos		2-4
Sutherland v Sydney Cosmos	2-0	0-1
NSW ITC/Penrith v Marconi	0-0	1-1
DIVISION TWO	1ST	
Macarthur (2) v Macarthur (1)	1-9	
Bathurst v Liverpool Olympic	1-0	
St George Association v Sydney Cosmos	7-2	
Penrith Panthers v Illawarra Lions	0-2	
University of NSW v Moorebank (1)	0-2	
Sydney United v Moorebank (2)	1-0	
Liverpool Olympic v Macarthur (2)	16-1	
Moorebank (2) v Macarthur (1)	2-1	
Penrith Panthers v Sydney United	3-0	
Moorebank (1) v Illawarra	1-3	
University of NSW v Sydney Cosmos	3-1	

LEADING SCORERS SUPER LEAGUE

21	N Joseski (Bankstown)
17	E Williams (Rockdale)
15	S Cleary (Leichhardt)
12	Karavatakis (St George)
11	M Ninkovic (Bonnyrigg)
12	S Porter (Sutherland)
11	G Band (Sutherland)
11	L McGuire (Adamtown)



Premier Division

Saturday, August 10, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Celtic	.....
..... Dundee United	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Hearts	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Rangers	v	Raith Rovers	.....

Saturday, August 17, 1996

..... Celtic	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Dundee Utd	v	Hibernian	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Rangers	.....
..... Hearts	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Aberdeen	.....

Saturday, August 24, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Hearts	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Celtic	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Rangers	v	Dundee Utd	.....

Saturday, September 7, 1996

..... Celtic	v	Hibernian	.....
..... Hearts	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Rangers	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Aberdeen	.....

Saturday, September 14, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Dundee Utd	v	Celtic	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Rangers	v	Hearts	.....

Saturday, September 21, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Hibernian	.....
..... Celtic	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Hearts	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Rangers	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Dundee Utd	.....

Saturday, September 28, 1996

..... Dundee Utd	v	Aberdeen	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Hearts	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Rangers	v	Celtic	.....

Saturday, October 12, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Celtic	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Dundee Utd	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Rangers	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Hearts	.....

Saturday, October 19, 1996

..... Dunfermline	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Hibernian	.....
..... Rangers	v	Aberdeen	.....
Sunday, October 20, 1996			
..... Hearts	v	Celtic	.....

Saturday, October 26, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Dundee Utd	v	Hearts	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Celtic	.....
..... Rangers	v	Motherwell	.....

Saturday, November 2, 1996

..... Celtic	v	Aberdeen	.....
..... Hearts	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Hibernian	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Rangers	.....

Thursday, November 14, 1996

..... Celtic	v	Rangers	.....
Saturday, November 16, 1996			
..... Aberdeen	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Hearts	v	Hibernian	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Dunfermline	.....

Saturday, November 23, 1996

..... Dundee Utd	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Celtic	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Aberdeen	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Hearts	.....
..... Rangers	v	Kilmarnock	.....

Saturday, November 30, 1996

..... Celtic	v	Hearts	.....
..... Dundee Utd	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Kilmarnock	.....
Sunday, December 1, 1996			
..... Aberdeen	v	Rangers	.....

Saturday, December 7, 1996

..... Dunfermline	v	Aberdeen	.....
..... Hearts	v	Raith Rovers	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Celtic	.....
..... Rangers	v	Hibernian	.....

Saturday, December 14, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Hearts	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Celtic	.....
..... Rangers	v	Dunfermline	.....

Saturday, December 21, 1996

..... Celtic	v	Dundee Utd	.....
..... Hearts	v	Rangers	.....
..... Kilmarnock	v	Aberdeen	.....
..... Motherwell	v	Dunfermline	.....
..... Raith Rovers	v	Hibernian	.....

Thursday, December 26, 1996

..... Aberdeen	v	Celtic	.....
..... Dundee Utd	v	Motherwell	.....
..... Dunfermline	v	Hearts	.....
..... Hibernian	v	Kilmarnock	.....
..... Rangers	v	Raith Rovers	.....

Premier Division



Saturday, December 28, 1996

..... Aberdeen v Hibernian
..... Celtic v Dunfermline
..... Hearts v Motherwell
..... Kilmarnock v Rangers
..... Raith Rovers v Dundee Utd

Wednesday, January 1, 1997

..... Dundee Utd v Aberdeen
..... Dunfermline v Raith Rovers
..... Hibernian v Hearts
..... Motherwell v Kilmarnock
Thursday, January 2, 1997
..... Rangers v Celtic

Saturday, January 4, 1997

..... Aberdeen v Dunfermline
..... Celtic v Motherwell
..... Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock
..... Hibernian v Rangers
..... Raith Rovers v Hearts

Saturday, January 11, 1997

..... Dunfermline v Dundee Utd
..... Hearts v Celtic
..... Kilmarnock v Raith Rovers
..... Motherwell v Hibernian
Sunday, January 12, 1997
..... Rangers v Aberdeen

Saturday, January 18, 1997

..... Celtic v Hibernian
..... Hearts v Dundee Utd
..... Kilmarnock v Dunfermline
..... Motherwell v Rangers
..... Raith Rovers v Aberdeen

Saturday, February 1, 1997

..... Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
..... Dundee Utd v Celtic
..... Dunfermline v Motherwell
..... Hibernian v Raith Rovers
..... Rangers v Hearts

Saturday, February 8, 1997

..... Celtic v Raith Rovers
..... Dundee Utd v Hibernian
..... Dunfermline v Rangers
..... Hearts v Kilmarnock
..... Motherwell v Aberdeen

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

..... Hibernian v Dunfermline
..... Kilmarnock v Celtic
..... Raith Rovers v Motherwell

Saturday, February 22, 1997

..... Dunfermline v Aberdeen
..... Hearts v Raith Rovers
..... Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd
..... Motherwell v Celtic
..... Rangers v Hibernian

Saturday, March 1, 1997

..... Aberdeen v Rangers
..... Celtic v Hearts
..... Dundee Utd v Dunfermline
..... Hibernian v Motherwell
..... Raith Rovers v Kilmarnock

Saturday, March 15, 1997

..... Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
..... Hearts v Hibernian
..... Kilmarnock v Motherwell
..... Raith Rovers v Dunfermline
Sunday, March 16, 1997
..... Celtic v Rangers

Saturday, March 22, 1997

..... Dundee Utd v Raith Rovers
..... Dunfermline v Celtic
..... Hibernian v Aberdeen
..... Motherwell v Hearts
..... Rangers v Kilmarnock

Saturday, April 5, 1997

..... Aberdeen v Motherwell
..... Hibernian v Dundee Utd
..... Kilmarnock v Hearts
..... Raith Rovers v Celtic
..... Rangers v Dunfermline

Saturday, April 12, 1997

..... Celtic v Kilmarnock
..... Dundee Utd v Rangers
..... Dunfermline v Hibernian
..... Hearts v Aberdeen
..... Motherwell v Raith Rovers

Saturday, April 19, 1997

..... Celtic v Aberdeen
..... Hearts v Dunfermline
..... Kilmarnock v Hibernian
..... Motherwell v Dundee Utd
..... Raith Rovers v Rangers

Saturday, May 3, 1997

..... Aberdeen v Raith Rovers
..... Dundee Utd v Hearts
..... Dunfermline v Kilmarnock
..... Hibernian v Celtic
..... Rangers v Motherwell

Saturday, May 10, 1997

..... Celtic v Dundee Utd
..... Hearts v Rangers
..... Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
..... Motherwell v Dunfermline
..... Raith Rovers v Hibernian

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1996**

Commonwealth Bank & Schools

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP QUARTER FINALS:

Boys: Kadina 3 Glendale 2,
Westfields 1-4 Keira 1-3,
Concord 3 Laumeah 0,
Ulladulla 2 Colyton 1.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD QUARTER FINALS:

Girls: Arthur Phillip 3 Dorrigo
0, Westfields 3 Kingsgrove 0,

Riverside Girls 3 Robert
Townson 2, Riverstone 1
Batemans Bay 0.

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP AREA

FINAL: St Francis Xavier 0

PRE-QUARTER FINALS:

Holy Cross College 1 Lisarow
0, Cessnock 2 Duval 0,

Koorlingal 2 Edmund Rice 1.

QUEENSLAND AREA

FINALS: Kirwan 1 Bilgela 0,

St Josephs Nudgee 1

Bundaberg 0, St Josephs

Stanthorpe 1 Bremer 0,
Windaroo Valley 2 Alexandra
Hills 0.

WORLD RESULTS

AUSTRIA FIRST DIVISION

— August 4 —

SV Salzburg	1	GAK	0
Sturm Graz	1	FC Linz	1
Austria Vienna	1	SV Ried	0
Linzer ASK	1	Admira/Wacker	1
FC Tirol Innsbruck	1	Rapid	1

TABLE

Austria Vienna	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
FC Tirol Innsbruck	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
SV Salzburg	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Rapid Vienna	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Linzer ASK	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Sturm Graz	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Admira/Wacker	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
SV Ried	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
FC Linz	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

SWEDEN PREMIER DIVISION

— August 6 —

Helsingborg	1	IFK Gothenburg	1
Malmo FF	2	Djurgarden	0
Trelleborg	2	Halmstad	2
Orebro	2	Oster	1
AIK	3	Oddevold	1
Norrkoping	0	Degerfors	0
Orgryte	3	Umea	0

TABLE

Gothenburg	14	8	4	2	26	7	28
Helsingborg	14	8	4	2	23	12	28
Halmstad	14	7	4	3	19	16	25
Orgryte	14	7	3	4	19	10	24
Malmo FF	14	6	5	3	14	10	23
Oster	14	6	3	5	18	18	21
Degerfors	14	5	4	5	17	24	19
Norrkoping	14	4	6	4	15	12	18
AIK	14	5	3	6	13	15	18
Orebro	14	4	2	8	13	19	14
Djurgarden	14	4	2	8	11	18	14
Umea	14	3	4	7	14	24	13
Trelleborg	14	3	3	8	16	24	12
Oddevold	14	3	3	8	10	19	12

RUSSIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

— August 8 —

Lokomotiv Moscow	1	K Sovetov Samara	1
Zenit St Petersburg	0	Rostselmash Rostov	2
Baltika Kaliningrad	0	K N Chelny	0
Lada Togliatti	3	U Yekaterinburg	2

TABLE

Alania Vladikavkaz	21	14	4	3	40	20	46
Spartak Moscow	21	12	6	3	38	16	42
Rotor Volgograd	19	12	5	2	33	13	41
Dynamo Moscow	21	11	7	3	33	17	40
CSKA Moscow	21	11	6	4	31	19	39
Torpedo Moscow	21	8	7	6	26	25	31
L Nizhny Novgorod	20	9	3	8	19	26	30
Lokomotiv Moscow	21	7	9	5	22	16	30
Zenit St Petersburg	21	8	4	9	21	22	28
Rostselmash Rostov	20	7	6	7	38	31	27
Baltika Kaliningrad	21	6	9	6	23	21	27
K Sovetov Samara	21	6	7	8	15	24	25
Zhemchuzhina Sochi	21	7	3	11	24	34	24
C Novorossiisk	21	5	5	11	20	30	20
Lada Togliatti	20	4	5	11	12	30	17
K N Chelny	21	4	4	13	18	36	16
U Yekaterinburg	20	2	6	12	19	37	12
T Kamyshev	21	1	8	12	11	26	11

European Cup Winners Cup Qualifying Round

Karabakh Agdam (Azerbaijan) 0 MyPa-47
(Finland) 1 (halftime 0-0)

Kotaik Abovian (Armenia) 1 AEK Lamaca
(Cyprus) 0

Dinamo Batumi (Georgia) 6 Havnar Boltfelag
(Faroe Islands) 0

FC Constructorul (Moldova) 1 Hapoel Ironi
Rishon (Israel) 0 (1-0)

MPCC Mozyr (Belarus) 2 Reykjavik (Iceland) 2
(0-0)

Chemlon Humenne (Slovakia) 1 Flamurtari
Vlora (Albania) 0 (0-0)

Tallinna Sadam (Estonia) 2 Niva Vinnitsa
(Ukraine) 1 (1-0)

Universitate (Latvia) 1 Vaduz (Lichtenstein) 1
(1-1)

Kispest Honved (Hungary) 1 Sloga Jugomagnat
(Macedonia) 0 (1-0)

Sion (Switzerland) 4 Kareda Siauliai (Lithuania)
2 (3-0)

Glentoran (Northern Ireland) 1 Sparta Prague
(Czech Republic) 2

Llansantffraid (Wales) 1 Ruch Chorzow (Poland)
1

Shelbourne (Ireland) 1 Brann (Norway) 3

UEFA Cup Qualifying Round First Leg

Sigma Olomouc (Czech Republic) 1 Hutnik
Krakow (Poland) 0 (halftime 0-0)

Note: UEFA closed the game to spectators as
punishment for a disruption at a Sigma
Olomouc game in 1992

Slavia Sofia (Bulgaria) 1 Tirol Innsbruck
(Austria) 1 (0-1)

Rapid Bucharest (Romania) 1 Lokomotiv Sofia
(Bulgaria) 0 (0-0)

FC Kosice (Slovakia) 0 Celtic (Scotland) 0

HJK Helsinki (Finland) 2 Chemomoret's Odessa
(Ukraine) 2 (0-2)

Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) 2 Molde (Norway) 1
(2-0)

Dynamo Moscow (Russia) 1 Jazz (Finland) 1
(1-1)

Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) 1 Aberdeen
(Scotland) 4 (0-1)

Dinamo Minsk (Belarus) 2 Besiktas JK
(Turkey) 1

Skonto (Latvia) 0 Malmo (Sweden) 3 (0-1)

Partizan (Yugoslavia) 0 National Bucharest
(Romania) 0.

Betar Jerusalem (Israel) 1 Bodo (Norway) 5
(halftime 0-2)

Legia Warsaw (Poland) 3 Haka Valkaekoski
(Finland) 0 (2-0)

FC Lyngby (Denmark) 0 Mura (Slovenia) 0

Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyprus) 1 Neuchatel
(Switzerland) 2 (1-1)

Budapest Vasutas (Hungary) 3 Barry Town
(Wales) 1 (2-1)

Helsingborgs (Sweden) 1 Dynamo-93 Minsk
(Belarus) 1 (1-0)

Halmstads (Sweden) 0 Vardar (Makedonia) 0

Heraklis Thessaloniki (Greece) 0 Apoel Nicosia
(Cyprus) 1 (0-0)

Zagreb (Croatia) 3 Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1

Hajduk Split (Croatia) 1 Torpedo Moscow
(Russia) 0 (0-0)

Aarau (Switzerland) 4 (Ivo Georgiev (21m),
Dariusz Skrzypczak (55m), Mirko Pavlicevic
(76m, 86m) Lantana 0. Halftime 1-0.

Akranes (Iceland) 0 CSKA Moscow (Russia) 2 (0-
2)

WORLD RESULTS

YUGOSLAVIA DIVISION A

Cukaricki	4	Borac	0
Becej	2	Buducnost	0
Mladost	4	Proleter	1
Vojvodina	2	Zemun	1

DIVISION B

Obilic	4	Sloboda	1
Sutjeska	3	Rudar	0
Loznica	4	Radnicki	2
Kikinda	3	Mladost	0
Spartak	1	OFK Beograd	1

POLAND FIRST DIVISION

— August 10 —

Gornik Zabrze	0	Rakow Czesochowal	1
LKS Lodz	1	Amica Wronki	2
Stomil Olsztyn	1	GKS Katowice	1
GKS Belchatow	2	Widzew Lodz	0
Sokol Tychy	1	Polonia Warszawa	1
Odra Wodzislaw	1	Lech Poznan	2

BELGIUM FIRST DIVISION

— August 10 —

Genk	3	Standard Liege	1
Mouscron	2	Lokeren	1
Anderlecht	6	Lommel	0
Cercle Brugge	2	Aalst	2
Antwerp	3	Mechelen	2
Ghent	3	Charleroi	1
Sint-Truiden	0	Molenbeek	2

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— August 10 —

Nantes	1	Monaco	3
Bastia	2	Rennes	0
Nice	0	Auxerre	1
Lille	1	Metz	0
Bordeaux	1	Le Havre	0
Strasbourg	0	Paris St Germain	1
Caen	0	Lens	2
Nancy	1	Cannes	2
Guingamp	0	Montpellier	0
Marseille	3	Lyon	1

TABLE

Marseille	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Monaco	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Bastia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Lens	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Cannes	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Auxerre	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bordeaux	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lille	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Paris St Germain	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Guingamp	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Montpellier	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Le Havre	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Metz	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Nice	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Strasbourg	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Nancy	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Rennes	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Caen	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Nantes	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Lyon	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aberdeen	2	Celtic	2
Dundee United	1	Motherwell	1
Hibernian	1	Kilmarnock	2
Rangers	1	Raith	0

Postponed: Dunfermline v Hearts

TABLE

Kilmarnock	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Rangers	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Aberdeen	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Celtic	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Dundee United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Motherwell	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hearts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunfermline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hibernian	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Raith	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Scottish League Challenge Cup first round

Albion	1	St Johnstone	2
(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 1-1)			
Alloa	3	Clyde	3
(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 3-3.			
Clyde won 5-4 on penalties)			
Arbroath	2	Queen of South	3
(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 1-1)			
Berwick	0	Stranraer	2

Brechin 0 Stirling 0
(after extra time. Stirling won 3-0 on penalties)

Clydebank 0 East Stirling 0
(after extra time. East Stirling won 3-2 on
penalties)

Cowdenbeath 0 Falkirk 2
(after extra time)

Forfar 0 Greenock Morton 4

Livingston 1 Inverness Thistle 2

Montrose 2 Dumbarton 0

Partick 3 Queen's Park 1
(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 1-1)

Ross County 0 Ayr 4

BELGIUM FIRST DIVISION

— August 11 —

Harelbeke	2	Ekeren	3
Lierse	2	Club Brugge	2
Genk	3	Standard Liege	1
Mouscron	2	Lokeren	1
Anderlecht	6	Lommel	0
Cercle Brugge	1	Aalst	2
Antwerp	3	Mechelen	2
Ghent	3	Charleroi	1
Sint-Truiden	0	Molenbeek	2

TABLE

Ghent	2	2	0	0	5	2
Mouscron	2	2	0	0	4	1
Anderlecht	2	1	1	0	6	0
Molenbeek	2	1	1	0	2	0
Aalst	2	1	1	0	2	1
Club Brugge	2	1	1	0	3	2
Genk	2	1	0	1	3	2
Charleroi	2	1	0	1	4	3
Ekeren	2	1	0	1	4	4
Lokeren	2	1	0	1	2	2
Standard Liege	2	1	0	1	3	3
Antwerp	2	1	0	1	3	5
Cercle Brugge	2	0	1	1	1	2
Mechelen	2	0	1	1	2	3
Harelbeke	2	0	0	2	2	4
Sint Truiden	2	0	0	2	0	4
Lommel	2	0	0	2	0	8



WORLD STORIES

Nigeria united by Gold Medal

Nigeria's military government declared a public holiday to celebrate an historic gold medal won by the troubled African nation in the Olympic Games final.

Ecstasy filled the land moments after the final whistle of the match as thousands of people poured on to the streets of Lagos to savour the 3-2 win over Argentina.

State radio and Nigerian newspapers reported similar celebration throughout the nation of 100 million people.

"Nigeria rules the world," "Golden Nigeria," were some of the headlines on opposition and government newspapers alike.

"Nothing unites this nation like football does," said veteran television sports commentator Hammed Adio.

"The head of state General Sani Abacha is overwhelmed by the great performance of our boys," Interior Minister Babagana Kingibe said on state television in the capital Abuja when he announced Abacha's decision to call a



public holiday.

Abacha stands to benefit from the soccer triumph which he can hold up as a major achievement despite Nigeria's political crisis.

His government is also bound to use the soccer gold to try to launder the nation's image sullied internationally by human rights abuses and a lack of democracy.

The first Olympics gold medal by an African nation in soccer was snatched by Nigeria when they scored the winning goal minutes before

the end.

Nigeria has been celebrating ever since its Olympic team came from behind to beat Brazil 4-3 in the semi-final.

The win over Argentina was important for a nation which has been in crisis since 1993, when the army annulled an election to restore democracy.

The soccer-loving nation temporarily set aside the crisis and united in support of the national team.

Hours before the start of the match, Abacha called each of the Nigerian footballers by telephone from Abuja and urged them to do their best.

Nigeria won its first ever Olympic gold on Friday when policewoman Chioma Ajunwa won the women's long jump.

Ajunwa stands to get one million naira (\$A16,000) promised by the authorities for any individual gold medalist.

The soccer team will share five million naira (\$A79,980). Several rich Nigerians have also promised them large amounts of money.

Kluivert highly valued by Ajax

English champion Manchester United will have to part with around \$A30 million if it wants Patrick Kluivert, Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal said last week.

"I have heard that Manchester United are interested in Kluivert."

"But I don't want to sell him because he is our only main striker."

But Van Gaal, who has taken Ajax to the last two European Cup Finals, admitted he might be forced to release Kluivert if the right offer came along.

"Every player has his price. And although I do not think any player is worth \$A30m, if I received an offer like that I would have to think about it."

Kluivert has only one year left on his

current contract with the Dutch champions and under the Bosman ruling, would be available on a free transfer at the end of next season.



Van Gaal warned that the influx of top players into the premier league and Serie A could eventually backfire on the English and Italians.

"It's not good for Italian football really, and the English game could face a similar problem if they continue to bring in foreign players and not spend enough on youth development," he said.

First casualties in Italy

Antonio Matarrese, vice-president of both FIFA and UEFA, has quit as head of the Italian football federation after losing support following Italy's flop at the recent Euro 96 tournament.

Matarrese said, "Italian football's crisis began two years ago after the World Cup. They were two terrible and very long years, but the crisis is within the football system and not Antonio Matarrese."

Serie A and B clubs last month nominated Luciano Nizzola, president of the Lega Calcio (Football League), to stand against Matarrese.

Serie C president Giancarlo Abete announced he was also running as a candidate with the unanimous backing of his minor league clubs.

Matarrese said he decided to stand aside rather than face a re-election battle for the job which he has held for eight years.

"One has to understand

when is the right moment to pass on the baton, spontaneously or otherwise," he said.

"I do not want to blame the three chairmen of the leagues for chasing me away. Instead it is the history of Italian soccer which has done it."

Matarrese could be followed out of the door by national coach Arrigo Sacchi, who received the federation

chief's backing despite widespread calls for him to go after the European Championship.

Sacchi led Italy to the final of the 1994 World Cup where they lost to Brazil. But in Euro 96, Italy, one of the pre-tournament favourites, failed to advance beyond the first round after suffering a shock defeat at the hands of the Czech Republic.



Antonio Matarrese: The first head to rock following Italy's flop in Euro 96.

MUNICH TO MILAN

Swiss midfielder Ciriaco Sforza has signed a three-year contract with Internazionale, the Italian Serie A club said.

An Inter statement did not say how much the club had paid German club Bayern Munich for the 26-year-old playmaker.

Italian Sports daily La Gazzetta dello Sport reported on Tuesday that the deal would be worth about \$A5million.

Italy's other main sports daily, Corriere dello Sport, said that Inter coach Roy Hodgson, for whom Sforza played when the Englishman coached the Swiss national team, had long wanted to bring the midfielder to his side.

Born in northern Switzerland to Italian parents, Sforza was voted Swiss player of the year in 1993 and 1995.



Ciriaco Sforza: Follows his old boss Roy Hodgson.

All change in France

French fans hope the return of Marseille, players Jean-Pierre Papin and Ricardo will make up for a mass exodus of leading players when the new league season started last weekend.

The core of France's Euro 96 side has shifted to Italy or Spain, possibly weakening both the playing and pulling power of European Cup Winners' Cup holders Paris St Germain and UEFA Cup runner-up Bordeaux.

Double winner Auxerre, who opened its defence of its first league title in ice on Saturday, lost central defender Laurent Blanc to Barcelona and midfielder Corentin Martins to Deportivo La Coruna.

But coach Guy Roux prefers to mould his teams from raw talent rather than look for the already finished star article.

One such addition is Australian libero Ned Zelic to replace Blanc.

Zelic reportedly hates big cities and is hoping to repeat Blanc's success at the small provincial club.

He left Eintracht Frankfurt after that club was relegated from the Bundesliga.

Monaco, tipped as a serious championship challenger after managing to hang on to its Brazilian gem Anderson, appears on paper as good this season as last when a strong finish saw it climb to joint second place with PSG.



Ned Zelic: Brought in to replace International Laurent Blanc at Auxerre.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

Croatian National League champions Croatia Zagreb have found the best possible replacement for Zvonimir Soldo who has gone to Bundesliga outfit Stuttgart.

In his place at libero comes highly rated Slovene, Marinko Galic. He has been bought from Slovenian club Maribor Branik. Otto Baric the coach wasted no time in using Galic as the Slovene shined in C. Zagreb's 4-0 win over Albania's Tirana in the UEFA Cup qualifier.

Sead Halilovic has finally left Spanish outfit Rayo Vallecano where last season he failed to win a regular first team spot. The Bosnian/Croats next port of call is Turkey and giants Fenerbahce. The Turkish league has its fair amount of Croats and this deal comes only two weeks after Varteks keeper Marjan Mrmic also signed for top Turkish club, Besiktas.

Young former Varteks left back Adrian Balajic has signed for Portuguese side Sporting Lisbon. This deal comes as a surprise as Hajduk Split were also keen to sign him but as usual Sporting came in with a lot more to offer. Balajic is very much like the Robert Jarni style of player very fast and gives plenty to any teams attack. He also has three caps for Croatia and just narrowly missed making Croatia's Euro 96 squad.

Ivica Mornar has confirmed he will stay with Spanish club Seville on loan from Torino. Serie B club Torino have agreed to let Mornar go for one year.

Seville also have Bosnian/Croatia Mirsad Hibić who along with Mornar played in a 15-0 win over a local Seville club with Mornar scoring five goals on debut.

The other Seville Croat Josko Jelečić wants out of the club but has only gained one solid offer that being from Greek club AEK.

Jelečić also wanted by Panathinaikos a year ago says he has no wish to

play in Greece and will hope for better offers.

In Germany two teams who play in the Landesliga SV Croatia Frankfurt and FC Dubrovnik-Croatia have put two heads into one and formed a new club called SG Croatia.

The club are sponsored by Croatian companies such as Ina Privredna Banka, Croatia Airlines, Burgerhaus and Golostein, Foelding, Atlantic Autovermietung, Autohaus Baotic and Kup.

With such good sponsorship and good German/Croatian players the club hope to make it to the Bundesliga. One Croat club who have touched that roof are Stuttgart Croatia who at youth level play against the top guns. The club also provides VFB Stuttgart with young players whether of Croatian or German background.

DID YOU KNOW?

Zlatko and Zoran Vujovic while playing for Bordeaux in France won the league championship three times including the double (league and cup) in 1986-87.

They also reached the semi-finals of both the champions cup and cup winners cup.

The twins were born in Split and played for Hajduk Split early on before moving to France, both Zlatko and Zoran also regularly represented the former Yugoslav national team with the later having the honour of being captain in the World Cup 1990 held in Italy.

There is a Dance for Youth being held on September 21 at the Croatian Club, St Johns Park. Phone 02 9610 1189 for further details.

BOSNIAN SQUAD ANNOUNCED

Manager of the Bosnia-Herzegovina national squad Fuad Muzurovic has

announced which players he will use for the 1998 World Cup qualifiers.

Goalkeepers: Ilica Peric (Osijek, Croatia) Fahrudin Omerovic (Istanbulspor, Turkey).

Defenders: Refik Sabanadzovic (AEK, Greece), Muhamed Konjic (FC Zagreb, Croatia), Mirsad Hibić (Hajduk Split, Croatia), Mirza Veresanic (Steyr, Austria), Suad Katana (Genk, Austria), Senad Begic (Celik, Bosnia), Ivica Jozic (Antwerp, Belgium), Ibrahim Duro (FC Sibenik, Croatia).

Midfielders and Strikers: Meho Kodro (Barcelona, Spain), Elvir Bolic (Fenerbahce, Turkey), Vladimir Glavas (F. Dusseldorf, Germany), Fuad Sasivarevic (Segesta, Croatia), Edin Mujcin (Croatia Zagreb, Croatia), Veldin Music (Sloboda, Bosnia), Elvir Baljic (Bursa, Bosnia), Asim Emrjic (Zenica, Bosnia), Pavo Didic (Zenica, Bosnia), Admir Smajic (Jedinstvo, Bosnia), Slavisa Vukicevic (Istra, Croatia), Suad Osmic (Lukavac, Bosnia).

There are three surprise omissions 1. is Veldon Karic of Torino who has already represented Croatia at U/21 level; 2. Sead Halilovic of Rayo Vallecano (Spain) who also has represented Croatia with 2 senior caps; 3. Gudelj who has played for years in Spain and is currently playing for Sporting Gijon. The reason here could be he is now over 30.

Apart from the above three players missing the rest is the best compilation of players Bosnia can muster. As you can see the squad is strong on paper and could provide a few upsets over the likes of Slovenia, Greece, Denmark, and Croatia who are in its qualifying group for France 98.

****For more Croatian Sports News and a good laugh tune into Cro 2000 with legendary announcer Ante Grabovac. the program is broadcast in English on Sydney's 98.5FM radio at 8.50pm Wednesdays. Don't miss it!**



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona Gate	25	17	2	6	56	25	53
Sunshine GX	24	16	3	5	36	24	51
Heidelberg Utd	25	15	5	5	58	28	50
Bentleigh Green	25	15	4	6	47	29	49
Thomastown Zeb	25	13	7	5	46	31	46
Green Gully	25	11	10	4	44	29	43
Port Melbourne	25	11	8	6	56	39	41
Bulleen	28	4	7	9	31	38	31
North Geelong	25	8	5	12	27	41	29
St Albans	25	5	5	15	29	47	20
Box Hill Inter	25	5	5	15	26	53	20
Albion	25	4	6	15	23	42	18
Fawkner	25	4	6	15	22	47	18
Springvale City	25	3	5	17	28	56	14

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	23	17	0	6	70	41	51
Port Melbourne	25	14	6	5	55	28	48
Thomastown	22	14	4	4	53	20	46
Bulleen	24	14	2	4	59	32	44
Sunshine G.X.	23	10	3	4	45	30	39
Bentleigh Green	23	12	3	8	54	49	36
Green Gully	24	10	5	9	46	37	35
Springvale City	25	7	7	11	51	51	28
Altona Gate	24	9	3	12	44	52	30
Fawkner	22	8	4	10	34	48	28
Box Hill Inter	23	7	5	11	37	46	26
St Albans	24	5	7	12	27	43	22
Albion	25	6	2	17	38	30	20
North Geelong	25	3	3	19	23	75	12

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	20	14	3	3	44	19	45
Preston Lions	20	11	6	3	31	14	39
West Suburbs	21	11	5	5	28	19	38
Richmond	20	9	9	2	38	25	36
Kings City	20	8	10	2	27	20	34
Lalor Utd	21	9	5	7	52	36	32
C'don City Dons	21	8	6	7	39	26	30
Moorabbin City	20	8	5	7	29	25	29
Werribee City	21	8	4	9	31	24	28
Westgate	21	6	6	9	36	32	24
Don'ster Rovers	21	5	8	8	26	31	23
Northcote City	19	3	5	11	16	33	14
Broadmeadows	20	4	2	14	21	56	14
Glen Eira City	21	1	2	18	12	60	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Preston	17	13	1	2	45	15	43
Werribee City	20	12	4	4	40	30	40
Moorabbin City	19	10	6	3	47	22	36
Richmond	17	11	3	3	33	17	36
Don'ster Rovers	21	11	3	7	43	31	36
Croydon City	20	11	2	7	43	29	35
Kings City	21	9	3	9	48	35	30
Lalor United	20	8	1	11	44	36	25
Sp White Eagles	18	7	1	10	45	40	22
Glen Eira City	21	6	2	13	29	57	20
West Suburbs	17	5	2	10	33	44	17
Northcote City	17	5	2	10	16	29	17
Westgate	19	5	0	14	18	51	15
Broadmeadows	17	2	2	13	17	45	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	21	18	1	2	79	22	52
Sth Dandenong	21	13	3	5	30	27	42
Altona East	21	12	5	4	42	25	41
Altona City	20	10	3	7	37	21	33
Waverley City	21	9	5	7	47	43	32
Ess Brun Royals	21	8	7	6	22	22	31
Frankston Pines	21	7	8	6	30	27	29
Knox City	21	6	8	7	29	38	26
East Richmond	20	6	5	9	33	31	23
Regent Bulla	21	4	9	8	21	36	21
Bell Park	20	4	5	11	20	32	17
Oakland	20	3	8	9	20	48	17

Nunawading City	21	3	6	12	20	57	15
Mooroolbark	19	3	3	13	24	45	12

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Pines	19	14	3	2	41	15	45
Ess Brun Royals	21	12	4	5	55	21	40
Altona City	19	13	0	6	49	27	39
Waverley City	20	12	1	7	49	34	37
Westvale	21	11	5	5	44	36	35
East Richmond	20	7	6	7	34	31	27
Altona East	20	7	5	8	37	38	26
Oakland	20	8	1	11	52	41	25
Mooroolbark	17	6	6	5	31	33	24
Knox City	21	6	6	9	37	31	24
Regent Bulla	20	7	0	13	39	62	21
Nunawading City	20	5	3	12	41	49	18
Sth Dandenong	20	5	3	12	33	55	18
Bell Park	20	2	5	13	24	93	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	20	15	2	3	67	24	47
Cranbourne	21	12	4	5	37	22	40
Ringwood City	19	11	5	3	53	17	38
Sth Springvale	20	11	4	5	47	25	37
Dia Valley Utd	20	11	3	6	28	25	36
Sth Caulfield	21	10	2	9	40	39	29
Fitzroy City	19	8	4	7	35	26	28
Pascoe Vale	20	7	5	8	24	29	26
Sth Werribee	20	6	6	8	38	40	24
Melb City	21	5	7	9	31	36	22
Keilor Eagles	21	4	8	9	17	28	20
Banyule	21	4	7	10	26	34	19
Chelsea	21	4	5	12	30	76	17
Clifton Hill	20	1	4	15	14	55	7

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne	21	16	3	2	96	17	51
Ringwood City	19	16	1	2	69	15	49
Keilor Eagles	20	14	4	2	52	19	46
Dia Valley Utd	20	11	3	6	55	33	36
Fitzroy City	20	10	5	5	53	37	35
Sth Springvale	18	10	2	6	48	24	32
Melb City	20	8	5	7	37	32	29
Frankston	10	8	4	7	67	37	28
Pascoe Vale	20	7	2	11	33	45	23
Sth Werribee	10	6	3	10	39	69	21
Banyule	20	5	3	12	41	67	18
Sth Caulfield	20	4	5	11	23	39	14
Chelsea	21	2	1	18	25	84	7
Clifton Hill	19	0	1	18	7	117	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	20	14	4	2	45	19	46
Sun Heights	21	13	2	6	47	22	41
Nth Coburg Utd	21	13	2	6	53	34	41
Geelong	21	11	7	3	45	29	40
Stonnington	21	12	3	6	45	27	39
Langwarrin	21	8	5	8	44	34	29
Lalor	20	8	4	8	37	31	28
Sunbury Utd	21	7	6	8	24	28	27
Monbulk	20	6	8	6	21	24	26
Moreland City	21	7	3	11	29	39	24
Seaford Utd	21	7	3	11	28	39	24
Williamstown	21	4	6	11	26	41	18
Corio	21	5	3	13	23	49	18
Sandr City	20	1	2	17	14	65	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	21	16	2	3	73	25	50
Sunbury Utd	21	14	2	5	32	20	44
Sun Heights	20	13	4	3	62	14	43
Lalor	20	10	6	4	45	29	36
Stonnington	21	11	3	7	44	29	36
Nth Coburg Utd	19	10	2	7	53	48	32
Seaford Utd	21	9	7	6	52	35	31
Yarraville	18	8	5	5	42	27	29
Moreland City	20	8	2	10	36	35	26
Monbulk	19	5	5	9	21	35	20
Geelong	20	4	4	12	23	62	16
Corio	21	3	6	12	22	50	15

San'ham City	20	3	1	16	22	70	10
Williamstown	21	1	5	15	22	70	8

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geel Rangers	19	13	3	3	54	21	42
Keelsborough	18	13	1	4	36	14	40
Melton	19	10	6	3	35	17	36
Sth Wantirna	17	10	2	5	41	22	32
Sp'vale Condors	17	9	7	1	34	21	31
Nth Sunshine	17	8	3	6	32	25	27
Knox Park	18	7	3	8	34	32	24
Mitcham Utd	16	7	1	8	28	28	22
Mornington	18	6	3	9	19	39	21
Doveton	18	5	5	8	22	30	20
Old Scotch-Haw	18	5	3	10	25	23	18
Glenroy	19	4	5	10	26	37	17
Ballarat	18	4	3	11	14	37	15
Heidelberg City	18	1	1	16	10	64	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	18	10	5	3	46	20	35
Melton	19	10	3	6	34	22	33
Mornington	18	9	4	5	28	31	31
Mitcham Utd	15	9	3	3	47	27	30
Glenroy	18	9	3	6	40	35	30
Ballarat	17	9	1	7	34	32	29
Nth Sunshine	17	8	3	6	26	28	27
Sp'vale Condors	16	8	3	5	42	25	24
Geel Rangers	19	6	5	8	33	40	23
Sth Wantirna	17	5	6	6	27	30	21
Keysborough	17	4	2	11	29	43	14
Heidelberg City	16	3	5	8	19	32	14
Old Scotch-Haw	17	2	6	9	31	44	12
Doveton	16	2	3	11	20	46	9

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
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DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA



TACKLE DIABETES



PREMIER LEAGUE — ROUND 26 SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH 1996 (2nds: 1.00pm/1sts: 3.00PM)

Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Sunshine Georgies
Bulleen Lions	v	Box Hill Inter
Altona Magic	v	Thomastown Zebras
Fawkner Blues	v	St Albans Saints
Heidelberg United	v	Bentleigh Greens
Springvale City Vales	v	Pt Melbourne Sharks
Albion Redsox	v	Nth Geelong Warriors

DIVISION ONE — ROUND 22

Moorabbin City	v	Northcote /city
Br Meadows City	v	Glen Eira City
Werribee City	v	Westgate
Croydon city	v	Richmond
Lalor Utd	v	Preston Lions
Kingston City	v	S'Vale Wht Eagles
Western Suburbs	v	Doncaster Rovers

DIVISION TWO —

Altona East	v	Reis. Park
Nunawading City	v	Knox City
Frankston Pines	v	Regent Bulla
Ess. Bruns. Royals	v	Westvale
East Richmond	v	Mooroolbark
Oakleigh	v	Altona city
Waverley City	v	Sth Dandenong

DIVISION THREE

Chelsea	v	Pascoe Vale
Keilor Eagles	v	Clifton Hill
Melbourne City	v	Banyule City
Sth Caulfield	v	Sth Springvale
Diamond Valley Utd	v	Ringwood City
Frankston	v	Sth Werribee
Fitzroy City	v	Cranbourne

DIVISION FOUR

Corio	v	Langwarrin
Lalor	v	Monbulk
Yarraville	v	Stonnington
Sandringham City	v	Moreland City
Sunbury Utd	v	Seaford Utd
Williamstown	v	Nth Coburg Utd
Sunshine Heights	v	Geelong

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE — ROUND 20

Keysborough	v	Nth Sunshine
Knox Park	v	Glenroy
Ballarat	v	Heidelberg City
Doveton	v	Sth Wantima
Old Scotch/Hawt.	v	Mornington
Geelong Rangers	v	S'vale Condors
Mitcham Ut	v	Melton

DIVISION TWO

East Nun Eagles	v	Brunswick City
Braeside Utd	v	Hampton Park Utd
Dandenong	v	North Yarra
Brandon Park	v	Lyndale Utd
Nth Glenroy	v	Berwick City
Croxton	v	Meadow Park
Hoppers Crossing	v	Endeavour Utd

DIVISION THREE — ROUND 18

Keilor Utd	v	Melb Uni Rangers
Br Meadows Utd	v	Parkmore
Monash Uni	v	Ringwood Rovers
Ashburton	v	Riversdale
Uni Melb. Blues	v	T'stowe Eagles
Newb/Yalloum	v	Elwood city

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL

Yarra Utd	v	Endeavour Hills
East Kew	v	Nth Caulfield
Collingwood City	v	Oakleigh Utd
Cam. Gr Old Boys	v	Noble Park
Wav. Wanderers	v	Flem. Falcons
Ivanhoe Utd	v	Thornbury

NORTH/WEST

Latrobe Uni	v	Mill Park
Keon Park	v	Nth Reservoir
Diamond Valley	v	Northern Utd
Darebin Utd	v	Sunshine Park
West Preston	v	Sydenham Park
Whittlesea Utd	v	Upfield

PT MELBOURNE 2

ALBION 0 BY D TUFFNELL

Only goal difference keeps Albion Redsox out of the relegation zone going into next week's last round of the Victorian Premier League.

A 2-0 defeat on Sunday to Port Melbourne Sharks leaves them hanging perilously going into next week's game at home to North Geelong Warriors.

Neither side could cope with the strong wind that made good play impossible, with only Port making the best of their meagre opportunities.

Dubutant Chris Palatsides opened the scoring in the 41st minute when he swung in Alex Efstathiou's cross.

The Sharks second goal had everything to do with the blustery conditions.

Jim Kourtis had already experienced trouble dealing with corners and up the other end Albion 'keeper Robert Brian couldn't stop Efstathiou's inswinger from going into the net.

The Redsox threatened briefly, but the disappointing Carlos Retre and Sonny Sevin failed to make any inroads.

Substitute Bill Daglis could have added a third for the Sharks late on but had his shot well saved by Brian.

Sharks: Kourtis, Latinopoulos, Bell, Kyriakopoulos, Livanopoulos (Karakyriakos), Palamaras, Hastie, Mitroulas (Parasidis), Duric, Efstathiou, Palatsides (Daglis).

Redsox: Brian, Gupinar, Grimaud (Carter), Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Collins, Osman, Retre, McMinimee (Scrobogna), Sevin.

Referee: Vince Celestino.

Votes: 3 — Palamaras (Sharks); 2 — Efstathiou (Sharks); 1 — Lucchesi (Redsox).

ST ALBANS 2 HEIDELBERG 0 BY JOHN RIGAS

Looking down the barrel of relegation St. Albans Saints secured maximum points after playing Heidelberg off the park on Sunday.

Former Heidelberg player Paul Lewis now with St. Albans opened the scoring after a cracking strike in the fourth minute.

Both sides struck the woodwork within a three minute period.

Firstly Saints winger Tom Pondeljak had his cross tapped onto the post. Moments later Heidelberg's Alan Scott headed

against the crossbar.

It seemed Heidelberg were on level terms in the 26th minute when striker Andy Vlahos put the ball past goalkeeper Marjan Vunderl.

Referee Jim Markovski awarded the goal but the linesman waved his flag for an offside. After consulting his linesman Markovski disallowed the goal.

The Saints chewed the Bergers up in the 86th minute when substitute Idriz Pelja scored after a Pondeljak shot was blocked by Glen Clarke.

Saints: Vunderl, Grganovic, Razov, Jolic, Gagula, Pondeljak, Movric, Lewis (Pelja) Milanovic, Markovac, Mikulic.

United: Clarke, Tsoumerkas, Fak, Scott, Koutos, Hasler (Paris), Svigos, McNicol, Vlahos, Despotovski, Boutsianis.

Referee: Jim Markovski.

Votes: 3 — Mikulic (Saints); 2 — Milanovic (Saints); 1 — Fak (United).

BOX HILL 0

ALTONA 1 BY A PELUSO

Altona scored an important 1-0 victory over Box Hill at Wembley Park and at the same time inflicted a seventh straight home loss on Inter and put them in danger of relegation.

The blustery conditions couldn't provide a goal in the first half, although an attempted cross by Frank Chirico almost resulted in a goal and Tom Markovski came close for Altona with a header.

A goal in the 61st minute gave Altona the breakthrough they needed. A cross from Zdravko Atanasovski from the left found Georgopoulos unmarked at the far post to head home and propel Altona to league leadership.

Even if Inter were to beat Bulleen at the Veneto Club next week, they would not be safe from relegation. Only results from the Fawkner — St Albans and Albion — North Geelong games in their favour would save them from the drop.

Inter: Marateo, Pansino (Marcen), Dal Ben, Castro (Basias), Lennon, Sette, Roodhouse, Guscic, Tsakiris, Frezzini (Zilic), Chirico.

Magic: McGrath, Atanasovski, Tasevski, Ruynje, Markovski, Micevski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski, Velkovski (Petrov), Gvetkovski.

Referee: Juergen Annuss.

Votes: 3 — Tasevski (Magic); 2 — Becvinovski (Magic); 1 — Rusmir (Magic).

GREEN GULLY 3

BULLEEN 0 BY G KOUKERIS

High winds of twenty plus knots created difficult playing conditions this weekend, as the Cavaliers played host to Bulleen Lions at Green Gully Reserve.

It wasn't until the 41st minute when an unexpected breakthrough occurred.

The Cavaliers forward line had taken control of the match when Steve Douglas intercepted from a header contest to shoot in Green Gully's first against the wind.

In the second half, the Cavaliers with the wind advantage were determined to use it.

In the 66th minute Vlad Babic extended Green Gully's lead to 2-0.

Just eight minutes later the Cavaliers went forward again. This time it was Daniel Genovesi who sealed the points for the Cavs. After taking control of the ball, Genovesi passed two defenders and lined himself up with an easy shot to convert.

The win was a much needed one for Green Gully. Their season's hopes of making the finals lie upon their last encounter against the Sunshine Georgies and if the Thomastown Zebras don't perform against Altona it might just become a reality for them.

Cavaliers: Vella, Dougals, Chetcuti, Waddell Cimino, Suric, Necesi, Genovesi, Staface, Babic.

Lions: Olver, Valentic, Stojcevski, Tsiakos, McAleer, White, Grbac, Di Iorio, Everettis, Barberi (Catalano), Liparoti.

Referee: Steve Kraleviski.

Votes: 3 — Cimino (Cavaliers); 2 — Genovesi (Cavaliers); 1 — Waddell (Cavaliers).

BENTLEIGH 3 SPRINGVALE 1 BY G VASILADIIS

Springvale City Vales' time in the Premier League has come to an end after being disposed of by Bentleigh Greens 3-1 on Sunday.

The youthful Springvale outfit will be playing the 1997 season in State League Division One after four seasons in the top flight.

The Vales got off to a dream start when they were awarded a penalty in the 32nd minute, Andy Theoharous upended Edward Carlos in the box. Pasquale Grella converted the spotkick.

Bentleigh started the second half like a house on fire and it came as no surprise when they equalised. Nick Rossios supplied the cross which Gerry McDonagh put into the goal.

McDonagh scored his first double of the season after converting via a John Papettas cross, Springvale substitute Daniel Rep scored an own goal four minutes from time to round off the scoring.

Greens: Jones, Drakos, constantinou, Theoharous, Bakker, Kotsovolos (Carey), charalambous, Kalimeris, Rossios, McDonagh, Papettas.

Vales: Christov, Lettieri, Carlos, De La Plaza (Gomez), Razzi, V. Grella, Campagna, Impellizeri (Rep), Lancaster, A. Vargas, P. Grella (Craig).

Referee: Colin Ellis.

Votes: 3 — Charalambous

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 25 RESULTS

Sunshine Georgies 1 (og) — North Geelong Warriors 0
Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (palatsides, Efstathiou) — Albion Redsox 0
Bentleigh Greens 3 (McDonagh, og) — Springvale City Vales 1 (P. Grella)
St Albans Saints 2 (Lewis, Pelja) — Heidelberg United 0
Thomastown Zebras 1 (Gnjidic) — Fawkner Blues 1 (Di Sauro)
Box Hill Inter 0 — Altona Gate 1 (Georgopoulos)
Green Gully Cavaliers 3 (Douglas, Babic, Genovesi) — Bulleen Lions 0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

23 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
19 Becvinovski (Altona)
15 Zinni (Thomastown)
13 Nilo (Sunshine)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE TOP VOTES

25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
20 — Ngata (Thomastown)
Cassar (Sunshine)
18 — Rusmir (Altona)
17 — Stojcevski (Bulleen)
Bell (Port Melbourne)
Becvinovski (Altona)

(Greens); 2 — Constantinou (Greens); 1 — Drakos (Greens).

SUNSHINE 1 NTH GEELONG 0 BY N

With one round remaining and a game in hand, Sunshine Georgies have the chance to finish minor premiers after beating North Geelong 1-0 in a scrappy game at the Chaplin Reserve.

The only chance of the first half came for the Warriors in the 26th minute when Joe Rajher headed the ball over the bar after his initial shot was blocked by Steve Wardle.

After the commencement of the second half the Georgies went ahead with a bit of luck. Anthony Cassar's through ball Juan Nilo whose cross deflected onto the foot of Robert cosic and into the net.

In the dying minutes North Geelong almost stole an equalising goal but Richard O'Sullivan's skimmed past the post to deny the Warriors a point.

Georgies: Wardle, Markris, Kanesoulis, Cassar, Field, Arelis, Nilo, Tsirtsakis (De La Plaza), Tountas (Dragicevic), De Bono, Vassallo.

Warriors: Joey Didulica, Cosic, Medved, O'Sullivan, McAuliffe, Skoko, Dimovski, G. Saric, Bot, Deak, Rajher (Sobevski).

Referee: Andrew Stacey.

Votes: 3 — Kanesoulis (Georgies); 2 — Cassar (Georgies); 1 — Joey Didulica (Warriors).

THOMASTOWN 1 FAWKNER 1 BY M ZAPPONE

Gale force winds and a heavy pitch at Partridge Reserve made for an

unspectacular slog. Thomastown Zebras, beginning with the aid of the wind, failed to create a single opportunity in the first stanza and it was in fact Fawkner Blues who claimed the points in the half.

Tony Schipano, celebrating the birth of his first child the evening prior, didn't show any signs of a sleepless night and was stout in defence.

The Blues should have been awarded a penalty for a tug on the shirt of Rino Minichiello by Michael Mazzini but referee Hossein Mohammadi was oblivious to the indiscretion.

The scores were locked at 0-0 until the 82nd minute, when Fawkner exploited Zebras 'keeper Mauric Rapaoni directly from a Marco Di Sauro corner.

The Zebras were thrown a lifeline when substitutes Marian Cracium and Danny Gnjidic combined for the equaliser.

Thomastown are still not assured a place in the finals and must get at least a point in next week's blockbuster against new leaders Altona Magic.

Fawkner, meanwhile, have a do or die clash with St Albans Saints.

Zebras: Raponi, Banini (Bichler), Karic, Della Rocca, Tricarico, Zinni, ZMazzini, Iacovitti, Cuculevski (Gnjidic), Boxchini, Ngata (Cracium).

Blues: Janssen, Kuzman, Schipano, Ferla, Branov, Minichiello, Bothwell, Stevanovic, Vasiladis, De Santis (Di Sauro), Tramontana.

Referee: Hossein Mohammadi.

Votes: 3 — Branov (Blues); 2 — Schipano (Blues); 1 — Boschini (Zebras).

NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Bulleen Lions v Sunshine Georgies (venue and time to be confirmed - postponed round 24 game)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Sunshine Georgies
Bulleen Lions	v	Box Hill Inter
Altona Magic	v	Thomastown Zebras
(to be played at B.T. Connor Reserve, Preston)		
Fawkner Blues	v	St Albans Saints
Heidelberg United	v	Bentleigh Greens
Springvale City	v	Port Melb Sharks
Albion Redox	v	Nth Geelong Warriors



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FEDERATION



PREMIER LEAGUE MAGIC IN THE AIR

GREG BLAKE

Altona Magic is shaping as the first Victorian back to back title winning team in a decade.

If the Magic can overcome bogey side Heidelberg United the former under-achievers from Altona can become the first side to repeat since Croydon City dominated the mid-1980's.

Heidelberg is the only team Gary Cole's side hasn't beaten this year, with Magic losing at home 3-1 and at Olympic Village 4-0.

Despite that I believe Magic's campaign is shaping up as very similar to the one which netted a maiden Premier League success in 1995.

After losing a couple in succession the Magic have since climbed slowly into the top three and with the double possible will almost certainly get the chance to defend the title on grand final day.

As minor premiers Port Melbourne found out last year, the real season starts in August and with Heidelberg focused on its NSL campaign to come Altona Magic is shaping as the title dark horse.

Between 1992 and 1994 North Geelong, Bulleen and Preston respectively have taken the minor premiership/championship double.

Last time around it was not so cut and dried, and I fancy that Altona Magic, Heidelberg and possibly even the Thomastown Zebras can make genuine bids for glory.

Sunshine has been the late season form team for three successive years but has always missed the double

chance or failed when the stakes were highest.

Like the Bentleigh Greens, sunshine's form has been mediocre at best in the latter half of the year and neither appear likely to go all the way, especially from the cut-throat elimination route.

Thomastown might have to travel the elimination path, but in its favour is plenty of experience and a coach, Ken Murphy, who is as good as any in the league, having led grand final teams at both this level (Fawkner) and in the NSL (Melbourne Knights).

No team boasts a better chance of breaking the elimination final hoodoo than the Zebras, despite what appears to be a gulf in class between themselves and the defending champs and Heidelberg.

Magic's galling finals exit two years ago has always stood as a landmark period in club history.

They learned by the mistakes made in 1994 after the club sat top three all season before losing the last two games of the season and missing the double chance.

After losing key players on the eve of the finals the then Ian Dobson-coached side went out without a whimper in the elimination game.

Late last year when the questions were asked of Magic they stood up to be counted, adding character to the claims of a side which already boasted considerable skill.

The staggering Sunshine Georgies finally conceded top spot in the Victorian Premier League in round 23 — and probably for the final time.

It took a last-gasp home defeat at the hands of Altona

Magic last Sunday week to send them toppling, but Sunshine's free fall started some time ago.

The Magic might have stalled in second place behind new league leaders Heidelberg, following the Bergers' stunning 5-0 rout of troubled Box Hill Inter.

But Altona Magic has been more consistent than the Bergers, if not as spectacular, and will be back to defend their title.

I'm convinced that the Magic and Heidelberg are the quality outfits of the competition and will contest the 1996 grand final.

Heidelberg has shown some character as well, bouncing back to form after a galling home defeat by courageous Green Gully and into top spot with an outstanding display against the Hillmen at Wembley Park in round 23.

Man for man Heidelberg and Altona Magic appeal as the best going around in 1996, certainly in the context of the finals series.

In a scan over previous Premier League grand final winning line-ups almost invariably the winning side has had the touches of class and experience over the rest of the field.

In 1992 an ageing Brunswick Juventus team was over-run by the youthful North Geelong side which was blossoming with the likes of Steve Horvat, David Cervinski, Robbie Markovac and Adrian Cervinski on deck.

In 1993 the power-packed Bulleen Lions of the era were peaking with the likes of Jeff Olver, Robbie Krajacic, Tom Sonsini, Anthony Grbac, Billy Tsiakos, Scott Patterson and

Andrew Zinni in the line-up as they overpowered workmanlike but pedestrian Fawkner.

In 1994 Preston had a near NSL quality team with Phil Traianedes, Robbie Spasevski, Rob Stojcevski, Steve Blair, Adrian Pender, Dale White, Sash Becvinovski and Sean Lane in the line-up as they rattled league rookies Port Melbourne.

And last year Bulleen was on its way down — this season has proved that — when it lost a tight one to an emerging Altona Magic team finally reaching potential.

Eight of last year's grand final winning team checked in for Magic on the weekend — McGrath, Atanasovski, Tasevski, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Georgopoulos and Velkovski.

Add the experience of '94 grand final winner Becvinovski and '95 media player of the year Rusmir — another grand final experienced player and, ironically, an opponent of Becvinovski when Port played Preston in '94 — and Magic is a class above all comers, except possibly Heidelberg.

Fak, Iosifidis, Scott, Hasler, Koutos, McNicol, Vlahos and Boutsianis are all peripheral NSL standard or better.

The support staff — including league top scorer Despotovski — stamps Heidelberg as the clear challengers.

The battle for fifth place is still alive, although Thomastown is still in the box seat and will likely get home despite a difficult final round match-up against the Magic.

Thomastown has staked its claim after a couple of last-gasp wins in uccession, when

the season might have been on the line.

Significantly, the Sunshine Georgies and Thomastown Zebras have been the least impressive of the top five sides in head-to-head competition this year.

The record of the Bentleigh Greens is impressive enough, although the form of the league newcomers has fallen away in recent months.

With critical games to come in round 26 (Altona Magic v Thomastown and Heidelberg v Bentleigh Greens) the battle for final placings is still very much alive.

As pointed out last week, hosting finals games will probably be critical in deciding the title.

Sunshine, Heidelberg and Altona Magic have decided home ground advantages.

Further to last week's story on the play-off venues, here are the percentages for the clubs in the running for this year's finals series.

success at home club	this season 1992-1995	(to end of Rd 23)
Heidelberg Utd	77.3%	77.3%
Altona Magic	65.9%	77.3%
Sunshine Georgies	64.8%	70.1%
Bentleigh Greens	58.3%	58.3%
Thomastown Zebras	53.9%	70.1%
Green Gully Cavs	53.2%	59.1%
Pt Melbourne Sharks	80.3%	70.1%

For the record, grounds hosting finals matches in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 have been:

Jukes Road (4);
Chaplin Reserve (4);
Middle Park (3);
Paisley Park (3);
Anderson Reserve (2);
Western Oval (2);
Connor Reserve (2);
Olympic Park (1);
Gully Reserve (1);
Elcho Park (1);
Veneto Club (1)

Over that same period eleven clubs have appeared in the Premier League finals series, with the record of games played and hosted as below.

club	finals series 1992-95	finals p/d 1992-95	finals p/d at home	finals won at home	total hosted
Bulleen Lions	4	12	0	n/a	1
Fawkner Blues	2	6	2	1	4
Sunshine Georgies	3	7	2	2	4
North Geelong	2	5	1	0	1
Port Melbourne	2	6	1	0	2
Brunswick Juve	1	3	1	0	2
Preston Lions	1	2	1	1	2
St Albans Saints	1	1	0	n/a	0
Altona Magic	2	4	1	1	3
Green Gully Cavs	1	1	0	n/a	1
Albion Redsox	1	1	0	n/a	0

JONES IN LIMBO

BY CON STAVROS

In again, out again Victorian Soccer Federation Chief Executive Officer, Terry Jones, will have to wait for the findings of the Industrial Relations Court in the next few weeks to find out if he'll get his job back.

Jones was controversially dismissed in late April by VSF Chairman Henry Siwka and then re-instated in May by the Board members.

Ousted again at an extraordinary meeting attended by Soccer Australia heavies in June, Jones has spent the last few months pursuing his legal options for re-instatement and becoming a full-time parent.

"I can't talk about my particular case because it is before the courts, but I can talk about my circumstances," said Jones on Melbourne radio last week.

On paid leave until the 18th of June extraordinary meeting, Jones has still not received a cent from the VSF from that date.

"I haven't been at the Federation for some time and I've yet to be paid my outstanding holiday leave or payment in lieu of notice, so

the Federation haven't paid me anything, which legally they are obliged to pay," said Jones.

"My friends in the game have kept me going over the last couple of months which have been very difficult.

Jones made it very clear that he would accept nothing less than his old position back.

"I have sought reinstatement to the VSF position of CEO," he announced.

"So far we have had one hearing, a conciliation hearing, and there is a directions hearing in the next couple of weeks.

"I am very, very confident that the courts will reinstate me."

The enforced break has allowed Jones to rediscover his family.

"I have become a full-time parent, which has enabled me to have quality time with my son," said Jones.

"I'm enjoying my son's company, but I'd much rather be working at the Victorian Soccer Federation," he admitted.

"I do expect to be back there, I've got the best legal advice and I look forward to going back to the Federation once my court case is concluded."

KNIGHTS SET TO LOSE STARS

BY CON STAVROS

Australian soccer's team of the nineties will face it's toughest test over the next few months keeping up the dynasty that has led it to five of the past six Grand Finals.

Melbourne Knights, winners of the past two titles, have become synonymous with deep squads and outstanding junior development and will need all those resources to protect their mighty record.

Distracted in the off-season by Soccer Australia's demand for a massive \$200,000 bond, ground improvements and arguments over their red and white chequered "Croatian" logo, the player drain at Somers Street has picked up at an alarming rate.

Confirmed lost last week was defender Vinko Buljubasic, who will move on loan to the league's new club, Perth Glory.

Buljubasic, who is one of the most underrated players in the competition was the target of \$30,000 offers from Adelaide City, West Adelaide

and Sydney United, before deciding on the move West.

"After playing in three grand finals in a row and winning two of them, I wanted a new challenge," said Buljubasic.

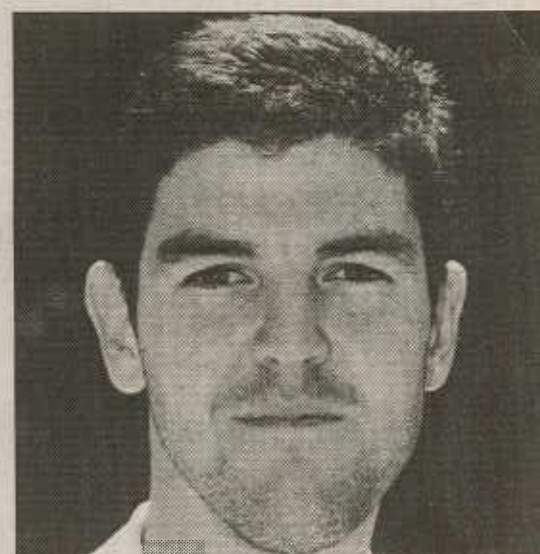


Danny Tiatto: Seeking a contract in Italy.

The move of the defender comes at a time when coach Ian Dobson is overseas on holiday. Dobson is in for a surprise when training

resumes in a few weeks.

Joe Bacak and Fausto De Amicis are currently trialling with clubs in Holland, Joe Spiteri is set to join Wolverhampton Wanderers and speedster Danny Tiatto is



Joe Spiteri: Olympian on the way to England's Wolverhampton Wanderers.

departures of Mark Viduka, Steve Horvat, Mark Silic and Josip Biskic to once again claim the title.

Even when they triumphed in the grand final, the Knights played without their trio of Olyroos, with Spiteri, Tiatto and goalkeeper Frank Juric overseas.

Of the biggest relief to the

Knights is outstanding teenage sweeper Jo Simunic, who will stay with the club for one more year, despite thoughts that he would join the exodus to Europe.

All the good judges are putting Simunic into the superstar category of Viduka after just one season in the league.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

Win! Complete ASICS Kit



Katrina Boyd: In the blue and emerald shirt of Australia.



Sonia Gegenhuber: In the gold, long sleeved Australia shirt.



Lisa Casagrande: Wearing the striking white Australian, short sleeved shirt.

It's just about finals time in soccer competitions across the country, and to help you get into the spirit, Asics and ABSW bring you the chance to win the ultimate addition to your soccer wardrobe.

Get in your entry for a shot at winning one of three Australian Team Asics strips in the latest modern designs. The three best entries will win a full kit — shirt,

shorts and socks.

Very popular with the Australian Team players themselves, the range extends to three great designs.

All three feature the AWSA logo in a different and striking way. The fashionable favourite has been the blue and emerald stripe jersey with the logo sublimated on the fabric through each emerald stripe.

The white version is anything but

plain with its large centrepiece 'watermark' logo embossed across the front.

Latest addition is the gold shirt, a long sleeve jersey with a trio of AWSA logos emblazoned diagonally down the front and the Asics name logo throughout the material.

All three will keep you in the fashion stakes with the grandpa

collar finish.

Even if you're not a winner here, you can still get your hands on this merchandise. Asics are now stocking retail sports shops so you can look the part as a supporter of Australian women's soccer. Wherever you are, make enquiries with your favourite sports store.

For your chance to win, tell

us who your favourite female soccer player is and why. Please limit your entry to fifty words or less. The three entries judged as the best will each win an Asics kit — shirt, shorts and socks.

To complete your entry, please make sure you add your name, telephone number address, and age.

Entries must be received by Friday 23 August 1996 at the following mail address:—

Women's Write's Asics Competition,
9B/18 Lucy Street,
Ashfield NSW 2131.

Olympic Raps

FAIR PLAY USA

Not only did the USA take out the inaugural Gold Medal for women's football, but they achieved the feat through fair play and integrity.

USA were awarded the FIFA Fair Play Trophy ahead of final opponents China. Going into the gold medal match with a handy points lead, USA maintained top Fair Play rating despite receiving three yellow cards to China's one during the final.

FIFA's awarding of the Fair Play Trophy takes into

account more than just yellow and red cards. Behaviour of the team and its officials off the field is also an important issue.

Contenders should demonstrate a positive attitude to the sport, co-operation with competition officials, attacking play, and respect towards the opposition and officials.

Team USA will be presented with the trophy at the annual FIFA World Player of the Year Gala, next January in Lisbon, Portugal.



Atlanta 1996

TM & © 1992 ACOG

YOUNGEST GOLD MEDALLIST

And women's football has set another Olympic record . . . USA's teenage midfielder Cindy Parlow has become the youngest footballer to win a gold medal in the long history of the Olympic Games.

Aged just 18 years and 83 days on the night of the Olympic final, Parlow has made a meteoric rise up the ranks to now be an Olympic Champion in what was her first major world tournament.

The previous youngest soccer gold medallist was Uruguay's Pedro Petrone, aged 18 years and 364 days when winning the title in the 1924 Paris Olympics men's football.

CROWDS RECORD

Reported last week that the Sanford Stadium crowd in attendance for the Olympic Women's football final between USA and China was a new world record for the sport.

In fact, the crowd figure is actually a world record for not only women's soccer, but for any women's sporting event in history.

WESTON SET TO RECLAIM TITLE

ACT's Weston Creek set a world record 13 consecutive league titles not all that long ago. But their reign came to an end at the hands of Canberra City, winners of the last two ACT League titles.

Now Watson Creek looks set to reclaim top honours again. Top of the table two points clear of their City rivals, Weston Creek are favoured to hold their lead. In a season interrupted by bad weather, all teams still have catch-up games to play.

ITC'S IN NSW TOP FOUR

The NSW Women's State League, regarded as the premier league in Australia, has just commenced its finals series to cap off a great season's football. The top four play-offs sees just one of last year's semi-finalists there again in the running for the Championship.

After placing near the bottom of the ladder in their debut WSL season last year, the two ITC outfits have come up trumps this year. NNSW ITC lost just once throughout the season, finishing a massive eight points clear of the field and taking the honour of the WSL Premiership. An off-season recruitment campaign to bolster the ranks proved the key to Northern's success led by coach Mark Jones.

Defending Premiers and Champions Marconi were not so dominant this year after losing several players, but remained a formidable side. In a jostle to the end for second spot, Marconi scraped ahead of rivals Sydney Cosmos, earning themselves a second chance in the finals series should they falter in the semis.

Sydney Cosmos, in the club's first involvement in women's football, have a very experienced side with several World Cup players, and finished in third place.

Surging into fourth position with a hectic schedule of catch-up matches was the NSW ITC. The very young side loaded with talent, caught the opposition by surprise as many of the players had no previous experience at WSL First Grade Level. The team also had to overcome player losses mid-season which reduced the squad to a bare minimum.

ACT has no finals series, with the League Premiership the coveted honour. The season is then rounded off with the club Cup competition.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

In leagues around the country, it's coming up to finals time. Over the coming weeks, we'll look at who's doing what and where.

CEO UPDATE

The process of appointing a new Chief Executive Officer at AWSA headquarters is still being undertaken, after the position was advertised nationally two months ago.

A good range of candidates have applied for the important job, many from outside the sport of soccer. AWSA officials are currently preparing a short list for interviews.



DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE As of August 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NNSW ITC	18	14	3	1	52	11	45
Sydney Cosmos	17	12	1	4	49	18	37
Marconi SC	17	11	3	3	47	17	36
NSW ITC/Penrith	16	10	2	4	43	19	32
St George	17	8	4	5	45	25	28
Sutherland Shire	17	7	3	7	19	25	24
UWS Macarthur	18	6	5	7	23	29	23
Gladesville Raven	18	3	4	11	16	50	13
Blacktown City	18	1	2	15	11	55	5
Macquarie Dist	18	1	1	16	14	70	4



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



ARGENTINE FIRST DIVISION

— August 6 —

Lanus	0	Deportivo Espanol	1
Velez Sarsfield	4	San Lorenzo	1
Huracan	2	Platense	2
Gimnasia Jujuy	0	Ferro Carril Oeste	1
River Plate	1	Gimnasia La Plata	2
Belgrano de Cordoba	0	Independiente	0
Banfield	0	Argentinos Juniors	1

TABLE

Velez Sarsfield	17	9	6	1	38	17	36
Gimnasia La Plata	17	11	2	4	37	20	35
Lanus	17	10	3	4	33	21	33
Boca Juniors	16	10	2	4	28	21	32
Estudiantes	16	8	5	3	28	19	29
Racing Club	16	7	5	4	24	17	26
Huracan	17	6	8	3	29	26	26
Rosario Central	16	6	5	5	23	20	23
Deportivo Espanol	17	5	7	5	18	18	22
Independiente	17	5	6	6	21	25	21
River Plate	17	6	2	9	32	32	20
Platense	17	6	2	9	22	27	20
Ferro	17	4	8	5	13	19	20
Colon	16	5	4	7	16	19	19
Belgrano	17	4	5	8	20	24	19
Gimnasia Jujuy	17	5	2	10	19	36	17
Newells Old Boys	16	3	7	6	18	24	16
San Lorenzo	17	4	4	9	14	25	16
Banfield	17	3	5	9	19	23	14
Argentinos Jrs	17	3	3	11	11	30	12

ARGENTINE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Argentine League is hotting up with only three rounds to be played and four teams fighting for the title, defending champion Velez Sarsfield, Lanus, Boca Juniors and Gimnasia y Esgrima de la Plata.

The competition resumed last week with some interesting results.

Velez Sarsfield leads

Competition Leaders

VELEZ SARSFIELD	36 points (17 games)
GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA	35 points (17 games)
LANUS	33pts (17games)
BOCA JUNIORS	32pts (16 games)
ESTUDIANTES	29pts (16 games)

Remaining matches:

VELEZ SARSFIELD v Belgrano Cordoba (a) - v Independiente (h)
GIMNASIA v Racing Club (h) - v Estudiantes La Plata (derby)
BOCA JUNIORS v Racing Club - v Estudiantes de La Plata (h) - Deportivo Espanol (a)
LANUS v Gimnasia of Jujuy (h) - v Huracan (a)

following a convincing 4-1 victory over San Lorenzo while Lanus suffered a surprising setback when the lost 0-1 at home to Deportivo Espanol.

Meanwhile Gimnasia y Esgrima scored a marvellous away 2-1 victory at Libertadores Cup holders River Plate

Nigeria victory — breath of fresh air

Argentina's press sadly accepted Nigeria's 3-2 victory over their national team in the Olympic final, declaring the Africans had provided the game with a breath of fresh air.

"Argentina falls trapped by its own miserly soccer," was the headline of the La Nacion daily. The big-selling Clarin agreed: "The team lacked the football to grab the gold."

La Nacion welcomed the refreshing aggression of Africa's first Olympic gold medallists, whom it described as an "African football hurricane."

The Nigerians, it wrote, "must be seen as a breath of fresh air in today's suffocating and miserly soccer, which is such a prisoner of static tactics."

Coverage of the match completely dominated sport sections in Argentina, pushing the rest of the Olympics deep into the back pages.

Italian referee Pierluigi Collina came in for wide criticism for awarding the decisive third Nigerian goal despite an Argentine attempt to catch striker Emmanuel Amunike offside.

FATAL OFFSIDE TRAP

But while most agreed Collina's decision was wrong, sports writers aimed still sharper barbs at the Argentines for their fatal mistake, an unsportsmanlike attempt to play the offside rule after a Nigerian free kick by running forward in a line.

"All the players failed by trying to play the offside rule in the 88th minute. It had never been done before and it should never have been done," declared la Prensa.

Argentina took an early lead through a header by Claudio Lopez, but lacked the spirit of the physically more powerful Africans.

"The difference in attitudes did not take long to make clear the skilful play of the Nigerians and the defensive style of (coach Daniel) Passarella's team," said La Nacion.

The Olympics are the only big international soccer competition which Argentina has competed in but not won.

Argentina has won the World Cup twice, but lost in its only other Olympic soccer final, in 1928.



Kanu: The former Ajax star skippered the Africans to a historic victory.

Vale Obdulio Jacinto Varela

Uruguay is mourning the death of one of its greatest players of all time. On Friday 2nd August at the age of 78, Obdulio Jacinto Varela the captain of the 1950 Uruguayan World Cup winning side, died peacefully at his home in the suburb of Villa Espanola on the outskirts of Montevideo.

Born in 1917, Varela began his career in Uruguayan amateur football, moving up through the ranks until signing for First Division Montevideo Wanderers (Bohemians) in 1938.

He spent five years with the 'Bohemians' before moving on to one of Uruguay's two giants - Penarol in 1943. He won six National League titles with them in 1944, 45, 49, 50, 51 and 53 but his greatest successes were in the 'sky-blue' shirts of Uruguay.

He made a successful debut for them in the 1939 Copa America where they beat Chile 3-2 but the undoubted pinnacle of Obdulio's career was leading the 'sky-blues' to their second World Cup win in 1950.

The Final was against the hosts Brazil in front of 200,000 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio De Janeiro where Uruguay caused the greatest upset when they came from behind to win 2-1.

The tournament that year was played in mini-leagues and Brazil needed only to draw to take their first World

Cup. They went 1-0 ahead in the 47th minute when their spectacular winger Friaca scored.

As the massive mainly-Brazilian crowd celebrated expecting a big win, Obdulio Varela took the ball under his arm and went over to the linesman to protest for an alleged off-side. He asked for an interpreter to discuss the situation with the English referee, knowing full-well that it wasn't going to change anything.

However, it took over five minutes before the game restarted and by that time the Brazilian fans and players had gone off the boil, the celebrations were gone. Valera then told his players "now relax - let's play and win!"

And so they did. The great striker Alberto Schiaffino equalised for the Uruguayans leaving Alcides Ghiggia to silence the Maracana with the winner.

It was the most heroic of Uruguay's two World Cup Championship wins. The teams that day were:

URUGUAY: R. Maspoli, M. Gonzalez, E. Tejera, S. Gambetta, Obdulio Varela, V. Rodriguez Andrade, A. Ghiggia, J. Perez, O. Miguez, A. Schiaffino and R. Moran.

BRAZIL: Barboza, Augusto, Juvenal, Bauer, Danilo, Bigode, Friaca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair and Chico.

REFEREE: G Reader.



Obdulio Jacinto Varela: Has gone to eternal glory.

ASIA

16TH ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

This competition is run in two parts until the semi-finals. West Asia kicked off on August 9 while East Asia start their First Round matches this Friday.

WEST ASIA

First Round First Leg 9/8, Second 16/8
Zawra (Iraq) — bye
Neftchi (Uzbekistan) v Pamis

Danshanbe (Tajikistan)
Aik Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) v Elimai (Kazakhstan)
Kopetdag (Turkmenistan) v Pirouzi (Iran)
West Rifa (Bahrain) v Nijmeh (Lebanon)
Kazma (Kuwait) v Oman Club (Oman)
Al Rayyan (Qatar — bye)

EAST ASIA

Ilwha Chunma (Korea) — bye
Thai Farmers Bank (Thailand) — bye

Shanghai (China) v Instant-Dict (Hong Kong)
HCM Police (Vietnam) v Malaysia's representative
Yokohama Marinos (Japan) v GD Artileiros (Macau)
JCT Mills (India) v NRT Club (Nepal)
New Radiant (Maldives) v Pettah United (Sri Lanka)
Pohang Atoms (Korea) v Indonesia representatives
Round 1 and Round 2 are played home and away.
Round 3 is played as Round

Robin League in one location. The Semi Finals are due to take place on March 7-9.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1967 Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel)
1968 Maccabi (Israel)
1969 Not held
1970 Taj Club (Iran)
1971 Maccabi (Israel)
1972-84 Not held
1985 Daewoo Royals (South Korea)
1986 Furukawa (now JEF Utd,

Japan)
1987 Yomiuri Nippon (now Verdy Kawasaki, Japan)
1988 Al Sadd (Qatar)
1989 Liaoning (China)
1990 Esteghlal Sports Club (Iran)
1991 Al Hilal (Saudi Arabia)
1992 Pas (Iran)
1993 Thai Farmers Bank (Thailand)
1994 Thai Farmers Bank (Thailand)
1995 Ilhwa Chunma (S. Korea)

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compiled July 1996

EVERTON: Surprised many last term when finishing sixth and came close to pinching a European spot on the last day. Joe Royle appears to be turning the toffemen into another strong Merseyside force but to compete in PL needs money.

Unfortunately few clubs can compete on equal terms in that respect and the "elite six" that used to be can now probably be dropped to four or five clubs, Everton not included.



Joe Royle: Trying to turn the Toffemen into another Merseyside success.

Kanchelskis made a wonderful impression after the move materialised, finally, from Man Utd. Would expect another strong showing this year but the title looks way beyond them.



Andrei Kanchelskis: Will be expected to play a major role for Everton this season.

Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 7th.

LEEDS UNITED: Pretty poor showing all things considered and need a big



Ian Rush: A new lease of life for the former Liverpool stalwart at Elland Road?

improvement this term. Tony Yeboah started the season in sparkling form but fell away badly and now says he will retire from the game after his contract at Elland Road expires at the end of the 1997/98 season.

Thomas Broolin could well be gone before this term kicks off and in all honesty, his performances will not be missed.

Not even the Cups look a good bet for Leeds at this stage but that's the very factor that makes the FA Cup so loved around the world. Even with Anfield's favourite son, Ian Rush, up front, looks like a long season ahead once more.

Last season: 13th. This term: MB — 13th again SJ — likewise.

LEICESTER CITY: Promoted via the play-offs after finishing 5th in Division One the previous term. They lasted just the one season in the top flight when they graced the Premier League in 1994/95. Gone now are Joachim, Draper and Corica plus manager Brian Little. It looks likely that a return to Division One is the most probable scenario again this time.

Last season: 5th in Div One. This term: MB — 19th SJ — 20th.

LIVERPOOL: Started to show form of yesteryear last season but only in patches. Roy Evans has gone back to basics in getting the Liverpool machine back on the rails and some astute buys have helped.

Ian Rush has departed for Leeds after many years of



Roy Evans (right) of Liverpool and Graeme Souness of Southampton: The two managers may find themselves at opposite ends of the table.

loyal service but in young Robbie Fowler, the Kopites have a new favourite who can carry them onto greater things. Look to have an extremely good side, one capable of challenging for the title on paper but then again, so did they for the FA Cup final too!

That experience will have hurt badly and is not something they want to happen again in a hurry.

Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — 1st SJ — 1st.



Robbie Fowler: The Kopites are expected to adopt him as their favourite son.

MANCHESTER UNITED: What can you say about the team? The big sell-off of stars, no imports and Cantona out for the first couple of months of the year,



Ooh! Ah! Cantona! This is the chant to be heard at Old Trafford.

didn't stand a snowball's chance of doing anything. WRONG! They showed the world what their youngsters could do and with the return of "l'enfant terrible" to the fold, went on to whittle down Newcastle's lead at the top to win the Championship and then that quite brilliant goal from Cantona to lift the FA Cup.

The second "double" in three years but their European form is 2nd rate. Ferguson will want that European Cup badly as he has to win it to finally lay the ghosts of the Busby era to rest and become the greatest manager the club has ever known. Depending on their priorities this term, concentrating on Europe could just detract from the championship thinking and might just prove enough to let another side in?

Locked in a power struggle with Liverpool for the services of Czech midfielder Karel Poborsky, they finally won the battle and got him on a four year deal. One to watch this term but the winter period could prove his undoing.

Last season: Champions. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 2nd.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Just about every player who's name ends in "o" is heading to the Riverside Stadium and Bryan Robson's managerial leadership. Started brightly enough last term but had an alarming slide during the



Bryan Robson: Will he be able to weld the players from diverse parts into a team?

middle of the year. Although not relegated, the thought was there as no-one knew where the next point was coming from.

Expect a tighter defence this time out and the fact they're still in the Premiership can be put down to Robbo. Rumour that Hignett and Barmby are on their way.

The season looks hard but not insurmountable. Have brought in Ravanelli which has raised some eyebrows, not



Alex Ferguson: Must be hoping to get his hands on the European Cup to build on his English triumphs.

because of the purchase but wonderment as to where this new found wealth is coming from!

Last season: 12th. This term: MB — 7th SJ — 9th.



Ravaneli: The change from sunny Italy to England's gloomy North East will be a challenge.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Perhaps tampering with the side was seen as daft with hindsight. Asprilla came into a side that was dynamite. After leading the competition for so long, it was a devastating blow for the players to miss out at the end. Another good showing in Europe is on the cards and could well prove a fruitful sojourn this term.

The tabloids have it that Warren Barton and Les Ferdinand want to a return to London which if true, will not help the title chase cause. The customary flying start but the traditional dropping away will no doubt follow.



Kevin Keegan: 'Hey Big Spender' will it bring the desired effect?

Last season: 2nd. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 3rd.

This preview was written before Newcastle bought Alan Shearer.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Much ado about nothing could describe last term. Not particularly worried with the relegation fight but not pushing for the top either. Would do well to finish in the top half of the table this time out or perhaps a League Cup may be in the offing. Most certainly an "also ran" in the title stakes though.

Last season: 9th. This term: MB — 11th SJ — 10th.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Not the side they were when reaching both domestic Cup Finals in 1993 where they lost out to Arsenal. Chris Waddle will hardly make an appearance this term but they do have a small crop

of youngsters that are worth a look.

Cannot see this season as being anything but one of despair. Will fight relegation all year before finally heading into Division One for 1997/98. Won't finish last by virtue of some worse teams in the league.

Last season: 15th. This term: MB — 18th SJ — 18th.

SOUTHAMPTON: Have kept Matt Le Tissier again but have lost some of the younger players, notably Hall to West Ham. Missed out on relegation last term on goal difference once more but with new manager Graeme Souness at the helm, expect them to show some fighting spirit. Solely on the selection of new manager, I tip them to stay up this time around but as for title challengers....

Last season: 17th. This term: MB — 14th SJ — 19th.



Matt Le Tissier Still at Soton but expected to be fighting against relegation.

SUNDERLAND: Up with the big boys for the first time since Moses was a boy, almost! Won the 1st Division title in some style last year but this is a whole new ball game. Peter Reid has done wonders for the club but at this level they will struggle. Have the ability to avoid a quick return but only if they play to their best from the off. In the relegation zone after a good start before confirming Premier League status with a game to spare. Could well pull off the upset of the season though.

Last season: 1st in Division One. This term: MB — 16th SJ — 15th.



Peter Reid: Has done wonders to take Sunderland into the Premier.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: As with most London clubs, not a penny spent on new players at time of writing. Niggling rumours of financial distress rear their ugly head with monotonous regularity. Still banking on Sheringham to score the goals but at least Anderton should be fighting fit for the new season. Have a new supporters club in Australia, well that's something at least! Interested parties should contact Jason Menzies at 12 Badham St., Merrylands, NSW 2160 or

phone: (02) 9682 3146 or 014 617 326 for more details. An average season in prospect.

Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 12th SJ — 11th.

WEST HAM UTD: It appears that someone at the club has finally worked out how to use the cheque book after all these years leaving the Hammers as the big spenders to date, shock, horror! In truth, most of those signed have come on free transfers but it makes for interesting reading. In come Michael Hughes from Strasbourg, Paulo Futre from giants AC Milan, Richard Hall from Southampton and a club



Harry Redknapp: Has finally worked out how to use the cheque book.

record fee for Raducioiu to Espanyol of Spain. All are added to their growing band of foreign stars: Croatian Slaven Bilic, Romanian Ilie Dumitrescu, Aussies Robbie Slater, Stan Lazaridis (both of whom are rumoured to want a move) and not forgetting Steve Mautone, Dane Marc Reiper and Czech Ludo Miklosko (who is attempting to gain British citizenship and states he never wants to live or work anywhere else). Things are looking up for the east end club and with their flowing brand of football, the "bubbles" will be blown high and mighty by the fans.

Last season: 10th. This term: MB — 9th SJ — 12th.

WIMBLEDON: Another season of neck braces for their 'fan' no doubt but good enough to stay up after the initial relegation flirtation. We say it every year that their football is not pretty but it is effective. They play to their strengths and deserve to be a Premiership side until they are relegated. Can't see that happening this term as they always seem to unearth some terrific youngsters to fit into their system of play. As ever, will be the 'spoilers' and equally as usual, will have some bearing on where the championship goes to once more.

Last season: 14th. This term: MB — 15th SJ — 14th.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

ABERDEEN: Roy Aitken is slowly awakening this sleeping giant but the Don's still have tiredness in their eyes. Quite a long way behind the traditional Auld Firm dominance and with players coming from 2nd division English Clubs to take a place in the starting eleven at Pittodrie, there's plenty of room left for improvement.

Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — SJ — 4th.

CELTIC: Tried hard to end the Rangers run last term when losing only one league game in 36, ironically to Rangers. This season could



Billy Dodds: Will be out to help the Dons break the Glasgow stranglehold.

well come down to who wins the Auld firm clashes but the 'Bouys' let too many silly points slip away with drawn matches last term. Alan Stubbs arrival from Bolton will help bolster the defence, Paulo Di Canio on the wing and rumours still persist about Mark Bosnich? The pressure on the players this term will become unbearable as the team tries to prevent Rangers equalling their own nine in a row record. It all adds spice to a season that promises so much (which you can see on Foxtel TV). Jorge Cadette's future with the club looks settled at last and watch for a youngster in the team with a

Jefferies when reaching the Cup Final and finishing fourth last term. Could again do well in the cups but will want to erase the memory of last years

fifth last term and need to improve greatly to have any bearing on this season's title, although it won't be finding its way to Easter Road in the



John Robertson: A key player in Hearts bid to win the championship (of Edinburgh).

1-5 final drubbing at the hands of Laudrup. The young guns have to prove that last year wasn't a one off and if they should, the future looks brighter at Tynecastle.

foreseeable future. A mid-table position looks a very safe bet and should avoid the dreaded play-off spot.

Last season: 5th. This term: MB — SJ — 7th.



Pierre Van Hooijdonk: The Celtic striker will be flat out to help steal the title away from Rangers.

familiar name... DalGLISH.

Last season: 2nd. This term: MB — 1st SJ — 2nd.

DUNDEE UNITED: The first side to gain promotion into the Scottish Premier League via the play-offs after defeating Partick Thistle over two legs. Will struggle badly with the promise of a quick return from whence they came just over their shoulders. Will make a decent showing before the drop though and could go w in the cups again.

Last season: 2nd in Div One. This term: MB — 10th SJ — 6th.

DUNFERMLINE: Finally made it up after being so close in previous years. Will find the going tough but might just avoid the drop if they play to their fullest potential from the off. Could provide the surprise result of the season but promise little else as they appear out of their depth.

Last season: Champs of Div One. This term: MB — 8th SJ — 9th.

HEART MIDLOTHIAN: OF Did ex-tremely well under Jim

Last season: 4th. this term: MB — 5th SJ — 3rd.

HIBERNIAN: The other Edinburgh side with Hearts and their most deadly rivals. Finished a not too convincing

KILMARNOCK: From a remote and beautiful part of Scotland, Killie only play good fitba in patches which leaves them open to the relegation fight. Continue to



Kevin McAllister: A key player in Hibs bid to win the championship (of Edinburgh).

survive, but only just, in the PL, will never be able to compete on an equal footing with most sides in the division. Rugby Park has an excellent playing surface, if only they had a squad of players who could match it!

Last season: 7th. This term: MB — 9th SJ — 8th.

MOTHERWELL: After finishing 2nd the previous campaign, they needed a miracle and got it last season when avoiding the drop. They had hoped it would be in the up lifting of their placing by one. Should perform better this time out and don't have European football worries to distract them either. Won't challenge for the title and probably not for the cups either but otherwise a very good season.

Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 5th.

RAITH ROVERS: A great season after entering the PL but the departure of Jimmy Nicholl to manage Millwall, could have upset the cart. It proved to be a blessing in disguise for all of that as the London side headed the table for so long before leaving for southern climes. A decent side but will probably struggle against the flow of big money imports.

Last season: 6th. this term: MB — 6th SJ — 10th.

RANGERS: Another double winning season for the Glasgow giants including their eighth Premier/Division One title in a row. The off season saw more spending on players coming to Ibrox — Swedish international Joachim Bjorklund from Vicenza and German midfielder Joerg Albertz from Hamburg with a

possible swoop for Fernando Couto being on the cards. The question everyone's asking, "will the expected strong push from rivals Celtic affect their European form or will Rangers Champions League campaign affect their domestic season?" Only time will tell but you can feel the tension in your water!

Last season: Champs again. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 1st.



Brian Laudrup: Another fine season expected from the Dane at Ibrox.



Glasgow Rangers Scottish Champions: Will be going for their ninth title on the trot.

UK STORIES

Chelsea's training regimen upgraded

Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit explained that the "alternative training" used by Glen Hoddle has been replaced by a more vigorous system as his new-look Premiership squad chases overdue success at Stamford Bridge.

Hoddle had employed a nutritionist, a reflexiologist and even a faith healer to help Chelsea's cause, but they never finished above mid-table in the Premiership during Hoddle's three-year reign.

Gullit, dreadlocked football guru, has axed the lot. In their place, a physical fitness trainer in 28-year-old former British Olympic sprinter Ade Mafe. The aim: to sharpen Chelsea's previously under-performing stars to peak condition.

Gullit's trio of spectacular summer signings, Gianluca



Ruud Gullit: Has no faith in faith healers, nutritionists or reflexiologists.

Vialli and Roberto di Matteo from Italy and French defender Frank Leboeuf have also come under Mafe's wing.

Gullit also revealed, "The players are training both morning and afternoon because you need to be in shape at this stage just before the start of the season. But they will also have two sessions every day during the season, except when there is a midweek match."

Wales striker Mark Hughes admits he can hardly wait to begin his front line partnership with former Juventus ace Vialli, a brilliant free transfer coup by Gullit.

"These are very exciting times at Chelsea and everybody is looking forward to start of the season. We are working much harder, I can say that for sure, and when you have a player like Vialli coming in it can only boost you."

CHELSEA OVERCOME AJAX

English Premier League side Chelsea, fielding a new look line-up of international stars, upstaged Dutch champions Ajax 2-0 to win the pre-season Umbro Cup Tournament.

Chelsea netted two early goals, brilliantly laid on by their \$A10 million Italian signing, Roberto di Matteo, and clinically finished by captain Dennis Wise and Romanian Dan Petrescu.

Chelsea's other big close-season signing from Italy, Gianluca Vialli, missed a chance to score on his debut when he came on as a substitute in the second half.

Mark Hughes sent the 31-year-old former Juventus striker clear in the 60th minute, but Vialli shot straight at Ajax goalkeeper, Edwin van der Sar.



Roberto di Matteo: Made both goals.

Cole sidelined by pneumonia

Manchester United striker Andy Cole suffered a serious pre-season setback today with the news that he has contracted pneumonia.

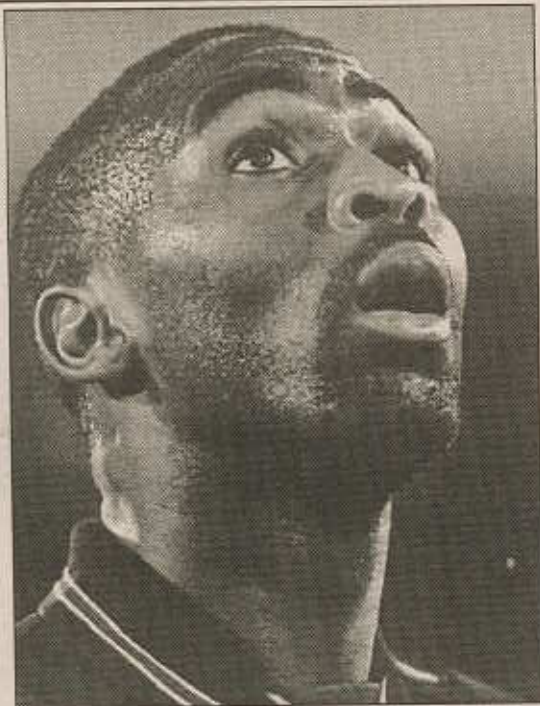
Originally diagnosed as a bout of bronchitis, the illness leaves the 24-year-old facing a five-week period recovering on the Old Trafford sidelines, leaving the door open for youngster Paul Scholes to cement a regular place in the attack alongside French star Eric Cantona.

Cole has struggled to find the goalscoring touch that prompted manager Alex Ferguson to pay Newcastle United a British



transfer record fee for his services in January 1995.

He regularly found himself battling with Scholes for a starting place in United's double-winning side and was substituted in the FA Cup final triumph over Liverpool after a below-par Wembley performance.



Andy Cole: A setback to his chances of cementing a regular place.

LIVERPOOL SIGN CZECH

Czech midfield star 23-year-old Patrik Berger signed for English Premier Division Liverpool in early August but it is likely to be two weeks before all the details are finalised regarding the work permit required for players from outside the European Union.

Negotiations for a \$A6.57 million deal were settled.

Liverpool manager Roy Evans said he was confident that the deal will be concluded before the eligibility deadline for the European Cup Winners' Cup.

"He's a Liverpool player subject to the medical and obtaining a work permit," Evans said.

"He has to be registered by August 15 for the Cup Winners' Cup. We feel we are on schedule to do that. I am hoping that it can be done in 10 days.



McCoist goal brings joy

Ally McCoist's (see front page this edition) first goal in Europe for almost four years helped Glasgow Rangers to a 3-1 victory over Russia's Alania Vladikavkaz last week in the first leg of the European Cup qualifying round.

The 44,800 crowd roared with relief as Rangers came from behind to take a handy lead into the second leg after goals from substitute Derek McInnes, McCoist and Gordan Petric.

Igor Yanovski had given the Russians a first half lead.

McCoist's goal was his 13th in European club competitions — a club record.

After 63 minutes, the Russians were reduced to 10 men when Pagayev was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Rangers were without the suspended Paul Gascoigne and long-term injury absentees Alan McLaren and David Robertson.

Strike looms in England

The Professional Footballers Association (PFA) said last week a strike among its members was inevitable as a result of a television deal struck with BSkyB.

Gordon Taylor, the highest paid union chief in England, told the English newspaper the Daily Express that protest action in the Nationwide League "seems inevitable" over how much money his association should receive from the satellite station agreement.

Taylor is in dispute with the League which incorporates the first, second and third division clubs.

His union is demanding a guaranteed 10 percent share of the League's \$A50 million deal with BSkyB.

Talks on the issue broke down last week and strike ballot papers are now set to go out next week.

The PFA want 10 percent of the money and if action goes ahead, players will refuse to turn out for televised games.

Taylor told the Daily Express, "I cannot see any delight. Strike action seems inevitable. The 10 percent was traditionally a fixed figure."

"It is a fundamental issue. I think we have the full backing of the players. The meeting last week resolved nothing. There were no plans for future discussions."

"Given our members' support and legal requirements, a strike could be called early in September."

"The Football League have trebled their income. We cannot understand the opposition."

The League are understood to be ready to pay an annual sum "at their discretion" rather than the \$A5 million demanded.

Wolves down despite Corica

An equalising goal by Australian striker Steve Corica failed to save Wolverhampton Wanderers in their 3-2 loss in a friendly against German side Hamburg.

A goal 10 minutes from time secured victory for Hamburg against a battling Wolves.

Trailing 2-0 to goals by Harald Sporl and Andre Breitenreiter, Wolves hit back through fine shots by skipper Steve Bull in the 44th minute and Corica in the 67th.

But slick Hamburg hit the winner through substitute Andreas Fischer after 80 minutes in a game played for around an hour in a violent thunderstorm.



Steve Corica: Scored against the former European Champions.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION — ST GEORGE BSC



BACK ROW (L TO R): A. Hillhouse (Manager), C. Karantzis (Asst Coach), B. Milicevic, V. Savoca, T. Kostadinovski, J. Bellio-Arnigo, M. Papaioorgiou, C. Martinez, P. Kitholos (player coach).

FRONT ROW (L TO R): S. Scott, D. Totaro, C. McAusland, J. Buonavoglia, S. Karavatakis, S. Kapsalis, J. Magianis, P. Trehearne.